MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE

THE CHART

BATTLE OF BELIEFS

Check out the story on the debate about the existence of God in Taylor Auditorium April 21. *Page 6*

SPLIT WITH PITT

Find out about the Lady Lions' doubleheader split with the rival Lady Gorillas. *Page 14*

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2003 | WWW.THECHARTONLINE.COM | VOLUME NO. 63, ISSUE NO. 23

Theft of instruments 'heightens awareness'

BY ALLISON ROSEWICZ
Editor-in-Chief

Someone has been playing musical theft at Missouri Southern.

On the morning of April 1, members of the music department noticed several instruments and other equipment had been taken. Now the department is wanting to take further measures to prevent something like this from happening again.

Stephen Miller, junior music major, realized his alto and tenor saxophones were missing from the music lounge, located on the bottom floor of Taylor Hall, when he arrived at the College at 8:15 a.m. April 1.

The Parisian alto was his own, and the tenor belonged to the College. He normally placed the saxophones in the space between his locker and the refrigerator in the lounge.

"I always kept them right there together, and I never had a problem," Miller said. "We've never had problems like this."

Dr. Phillip Wise, head of the department of music, said problems like this have never occurred before.

"Students feel kind of comfortable with doing that (not locking up their instruments)," he said. "But I think since that time, everyone's decided to heighten their awareness and lock things up."

Miller said he usually uses his locker for books and sheet music, so he does not have room for his instruments.

"You never really think about it until something like this happens," he said. "Then you start wondering what could have been done to prevent it."

At first, he thought someone was playing an April Fool's Day prank. But after searching the entire music department, Miller realized it wasn't the case. He said he was upset and worried. The alto saxophone once belonged to his mother.

"Obviously, that's a keepsake," he said.

The saxophone was valued at $3,000 but is covered by his parents' homeowners insurance.

Robert Terry, sophomore music major, went through a similar experience April 1. He discovered at noon that day his Dean five-string bass guitar and his Hartkey Kickback 15 amplifier were missing from the music lounge. His missing equipment is valued at just more than $1,000, but homeowners insurance

TURN TO **THEFT**, PAGE 11

Naoko Onoda/The Chart

Dr. Charles Thelen (left) and Stephen Miller practice playing the saxophone. Miller recently had two of his saxophones stolen from the music lounge.

FLOAT A BOAT

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Lacy Mariott, freshman graphic design major, swims after her sinking boat during the basic form class' cardboard boat race on Shoal Creek. Students in the class were required to build boats from cardboard and tape. The boats had to hold the students' weight.

College appoints new library director

BY HANNAH MARSH
Staff Writer

Wendy McGrane has been named the new library director for Spiva Library.

McGrane, who previously held the position of reference and instruction librarian, was appointed last week by Dr. Larry Martin, vice president for academic affairs.

Wendy McGrane
Spiva Library Director

"She's been a good learner, open to suggestions to try to open a line of communication with other areas of campus," Martin said. "We got input from constituents of the library and decided to keep her in the position because she does a good job."

Martin also said she has established liaisons with faculty in every department on campus, which is important.

McGrane joined the Missouri Southern staff in the summer of 1999. Although she did not graduate from Southern, she did spend two years of her college career here. In 1991, McGrane obtained her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in English from Mercer University in Macon, Ga. She later obtained her master's degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1995. Before she worked at Southern, she worked at the Joplin Public

TURN TO **DIRECTOR**, PAGE 11

Campus plans activities for Spring Fling Week

BY NATE BILLINGS
Staff Writer

The fresh air, spring flowers and sunny skies bring students outside for various activities.

Students can join in on several outdoor activities during the upcoming Spring Fling at Missouri Southern.

Spring Fling Week begins Monday and continues to Friday, May 2. Activities are planned for that Friday from 10:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It creates a good vibe on campus," said Julie Blackford, director of student activities. "I hope anyone who passes by can stop."

A DJ will be outside providing a musical atmosphere. Students can join in Pucker Power, where they can create their own Pixie Sticks. Students will also be able to receive an airbrushed tattoo. Free pop-can holders will be passed out advertising Finals Madness the following week.

A free-food picnic will be available for all participants. The menu includes hamburgers, hot dogs, spicy chicken, brownies and ice cream. Soda will also be available.

"It's a good time for students," Blackford said.

Blackford said she is thankful for the cooperation of the janitorial staff and food services.

"They do a phenomenal job," she said. "They are extremely flexible."

The Chemistry Club will also participate in a fund-raising tie-dye if the club has extra materials left over from its Earth Day event.

Dr. Marsi Archer, assistant professor of chemistry and Chemistry Club adviser, said the club will dye anything students bring by. She said clean cotton products work the best.

Archer said the club has dyed curtains, polo shirts, sheets, and boxer shorts in the past.

The club also pre-dyes T-shirts to sell. The shirts will be $10. Children's shirts and bandanas will also be available.

"It's a fund-raiser. It's kind of cool, and has some chemistry involved with the dying process," Archer said.

Students are allowed to partake in the dying process, but the club will dye shirts for those who do not want to get anything on their clothes. The T-shirts will come with a bag, care instructions, and an explanation of the chemical processes involved.

All activities will be outside. In case of rain, the activities will be moved inside the Billingsly Student Center.

Spring Fling Activities for Friday, May 2

- Pucker Power: create your own Pixie Sticks
- Airbrushed tattoos
- Free-food picnic
- Chemistry Club tie-dye fund-raiser

All activites will take place on the oval. In case of rain, they will be moved inside the Billingsly Student Center.

Southern students face war deployment

BY MICHELLE CONTY
Associate Editor

Operation Iraqi Freedom has hit home for many Missouri Southern students.

Not only have more than 20 Southern students been given full refunds due to deployment, but many more students are on call and still attending classes.

Senior graphic design major Christine Thrasher was due to be discharged in February, however, she was called in January and put on call until June 2004.

"As of Jan. 15, they extended everyone's term another year," she said.

Thrasher is a Marine corporal. She enlisted in 1995.

"I was the baby of the family and wanted to get out of the house," she said. "I didn't think I'd have the opportunity to do that without an organization like the military."

She said she hasn't experienced any animosity from the College or community about her possible deployment.

Senior criminal justice major Casey Highland agreed.

"Mothers come up to me and say 'I'm praying for you' or hug me and tell me about their son or daughter who is fighting in the war," he said.

Highland, who ships off for Marine boot camp June 3, was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the support the troops rally held April 4 in front of Hearnes Hall.

"That was a huge honor when Sen. Nodler asked me to speak," Highland said.

TURN TO **DEPLOYED**, PAGE 11

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WEEKEND OUTLOOK

SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 72
Low: 49

SUNDAY
T-Storms
High: 73
Low: 52

For complete weather, turn to Page 2

ONLINE

Log on to www.thechartonline.com to take this week's poll question: What did you think of the 'Existence of God' debate?

Students run sports clinic

BY MICHELLE CONTY
Associate Editor

For the eighth year in a row, Missouri Southern's department of kinesiology will host the Children's Lifetime Sports Academy.

The goal of the academy is to teach the skills and to promote the appreciation of selected lifetime activities.

Instruction at the academy is provided by faculty from the department of kinesiology, physical education and health promotion and wellness majors, as well as physical education teachers from the area.

Approximately 100 children between the ages of 7-12 are expected to attend the academy this year, which runs June 9-12 during the summer session. A fee of $65 per child covers the costs of the four-day academy.

Over the course of the program, children will participate in a variety of physical activities and sports. The academy offers Frisbee, bowling, fishing and rope jumping events. Free swim time in the pool will be scheduled daily. During swim time, children can go to the concession stand where everything is 50 cents. The academy also allows children to participate in cardio and rhythmic activities.

Susan Flowers, senior elementary physical education major from Joplin, is participating in the event for the second year in a row.

"The best aspect of the academy is that it exposes children to a variety of activities that they may not normally be exposed to," Flowers said.

"Parents get a kick out of watching their kids dance and play games."

Dr. Pat Lipira
Head, Kinesiology Dept.

"Parents get a kick out of watching their kids dance and play games," said Dr. Pat Lipira, head of the kinesiology department.

"It introduces children to activities that they can participate in as adults and later on in life."

An example of this type of activity is Frisbee golf.

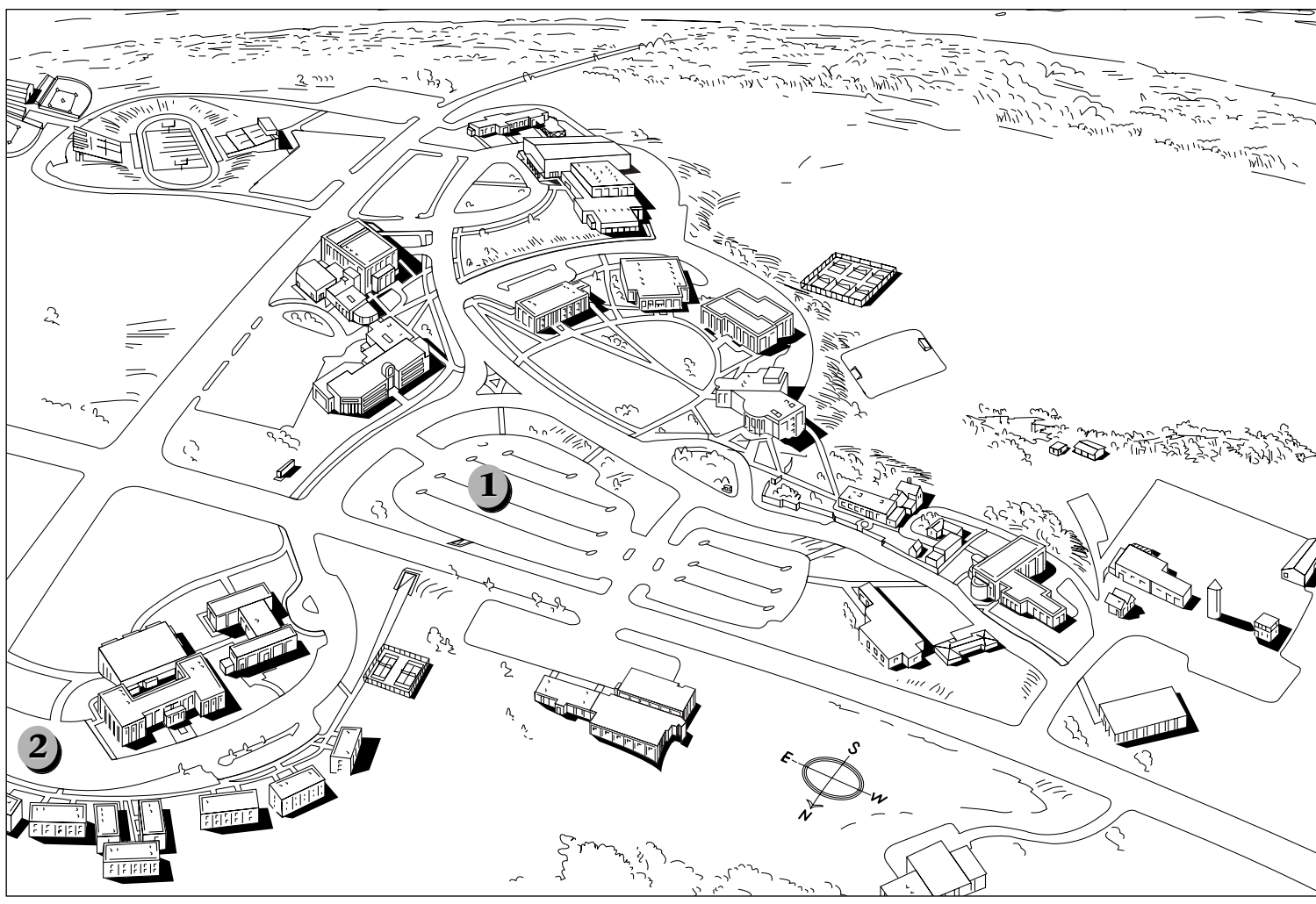
"It's inexpensive, simple and easy to set up," Flowers said.

Flowers taught the rhythmic activity to children on two days of last year's academy. The class involved dance and basic jazz movements and also had children dancing in a Congo line.

The academy is open to children of all abilities.

"It is an opportunity for kids who aren't as highly skilled as some others to participate," Lipira said.

Students involved in the academy do more than help provide instruction for events, they also work to set up the event, prepare T-shirts, set up water bottles and prepare schedules for the academy's students.



Neglected car finds home in service lot

1 **Property Destruction**

04/21/03

10:50 a.m

A student contacted security to report that when he returned to his car in lot No. 39 after class in Webster Hall, he discovered some scratches and red paint on the driver's side rear door.

The student took the license plate number of the car next to his. Security contacted the student to whom the car belonged, but she advised that she did not open her car door into the vehicle beside her.

Security did advise the car damage appeared to be caused by someone opening a door into the side of the vehicle.

The student also reported that someone had put a deep scratch in the hood of his car on April 10. His vehicle was on lot No. 38 when that incident took place.

2 **Towed Vehicle**

04/21/03

12:50 p.m

Appleton Wrecker Service towed a vehicle off lot No. 25. The vehicle was owned by an on-campus resident.

The car had been broken down on the lot for several weeks.

Security had contacted the student a week earlier, and the student advised he would move the car but failed to do so.

When the vehicle was towed, security left a note on the student's door advising him that it had been taken to Appleton Wrecker Service's lot.

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Accessweather.com Local Weather Report — April 25, 2003

Joplin's 7-Day Forecast

Friday — Showers Possible — High: 66 Low: 48

Saturday — Partly Cloudy — High: 72 Low: 49

Sunday — P.M. T-storms — High: 73 Low: 52

Monday — P.M. T-storms — High: 75 Low: 54

Tuesday — Partly Cloudy — High: 69 Low: 49

Wednesday — Partly Cloudy — High: 71 Low: 50

Thursday — Partly Cloudy — High: 73 Low: 52

Joplin's Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip*
Monday	86	61	69/46	0.00"
Tuesday	84	66	69/46	Trace
Wednesday	71	53	69/46	0.33"
Thursday	55	45	70/47	0.00"
Friday	85	50	70/47	0.00"
Saturday	72	54	70/47	0.14"
Sunday	68	49	70/48	0.00"

Precipitation for the week .....0.47"
Normal precipitation for the week .....1.02"
Departure from normal for the week ..-0.55"
Precipitation for the year .....7.64"
Normal precipitation year to date .....10.53"
Departure from normal for the year ...-2.89"
* Precipitation includes snow converted to rainfall

Campus Recreational Forecast

A departing cold front will leave a chance of showers in the forecast today. High pressure will bring pleasant weather to the campus Saturday and early Sunday. This will be your best time to partake in outdoor activities. A chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms will enter the forecast Sunday and Monday as the atmosphere becomes more unstable. Weather conditions should improve once again by midweek. Partly cloudy skies are expected with seasonable temperatures. Highs will be in the 60s and 70s. Low temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s.

Joplin's Sun/Moon Chart This Week

New 5/1 — Full 5/15 — First 5/9 — Last 5/22

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri	6:30 a.m.	8:01 p.m.	4:05 a.m.	2:40 p.m.
Sat	6:29 a.m.	8:02 p.m.	4:34 a.m.	3:41 p.m.
Sun	6:27 a.m.	8:03 p.m.	5:00 a.m.	4:40 p.m.
Mon	6:26 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	5:24 a.m.	5:37 p.m.
Tue	6:25 a.m.	8:05 p.m.	5:47 a.m.	6:34 p.m.
Wed	6:24 a.m.	8:06 p.m.	6:10 a.m.	7:31 p.m.
Thu	6:23 a.m.	8:07 p.m.	6:35 a.m.	8:29 p.m.

Weather History

April 24, 1899 - Two women and one boy lived to tell the story of being picked up by a tornado and carried more than one-fourth of a mile before being gently set down again. The boy and one of the ladies said they had the pleasure of flying alongside a horse.

National Weather Summary This Week

A developing area of low pressure with a trailing cold front will become organized across the Lower Mississippi Valley to end the week. As this system taps plentiful tropical moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, a likely chance of showers and thunderstorms will occur along the Gulf Coast. Meanwhile, a strong cold front will move into the Pacific Coast states. Widespread rain will fall along the immediate coastline, changing over into a wintry mix in some of the higher inland elevations. This system will charge into the Rocky Mountain states over the weekend, providing a good chance of precipitation and windy conditions. As we make our way into the beginning of next week, this system will move into the Great Plains.

All forecasts, data and graphics provided by Accessweather.com, Inc. © 2003. All rights reserved.

Weather Trivia

What is the greatest amount of rain to fall within 24 hours in the United States?

Answer: Alvin, Texas holds the record with 43 inches falling in August 1977.

Tanning Index Today

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

UV Index Scale
0-2: Minimal Exposure
3-4: Low Exposure
5-6: Moderate Exposure
7-9: High Exposure
10+: Very High Exposure

Local Precipitation Log

Month	2003	2002	Normal
Jan	0.30	3.09	1.74
Feb	2.53	0.72	2.12
Mar	2.97	2.65	3.10
Apr	1.84	4.10	4.10
May	------	13.60	4.96
Jun	------	4.71	5.07
Jul	------	4.87	3.73
Aug	------	1.14	3.58
Sep	------	1.64	4.97
Oct	------	2.30	3.50
Nov	------	0.56	3.18
Dec	------	2.10	2.54
Total	**7.64**	**41.48**	**42.59**

All precipitation is in inches

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Field Day offers brush-up on language skills

High school students visit campus, compete against each other for prizes

BY JERRY MANTER
Managing Editor

Missouri Southern students had a flashback of high school April 22.

Close to 1,000 foreign language high school students from around the region came to Southern to practice and compete in foreign language skills.

More than 60 Southern students helped coordinate the day-long event.

"Were introducing students to a new language," said Jerry Jones, senior English major.

Jones, who has taken four semesters of Russian for his minor, helped run a booth offering information on Russia and the language.

"Most schools just have Spanish or French," Jones said. "We're trying to introduce them to Russian."

Jones said some students might be reluctant to take Russian.

"Russian is a hard language to learn," he said. "We're trying not to scare them off."

Events were scattered throughout the campus in Billingsly Student Center, Webster Hall and Taylor Auditorium. Students had the opportunity to read poetry, work on reading comprehension, touch up on vocabulary, perform skits and a culture bowl was held as well.

Foreign Language Field Day

- Almost 1,000 high school students from around the region attended the event.

Rita Guzman, Spanish instructor at Southern, has helped coordinate the annual fair for two years.

"We're practicing our communication skills," Guzman said.

Guzman said events such as the Foreign Language Field Day offer a great deal of benefits for students and the schools involved.

"Students can hear different dialects and other accents," Guzman said. "This is not just a classroom setting."

On the third floor of BSC, high school students formed groups with Southern foreign language majors and practiced speaking their foreign language. If the high school students answered the questions right, they were awarded fake pesos.

Students used their play money to bargain for a variety of goodies, including pencils, stickers and erasers.

The most expensive gift was a Spanish hat.

"They try to speak in real-life situations," Guzman said. "It's always fun doing this."

Jim Beuson, Spanish and French instructor at Joplin High School, brought close to 80 students to the event.

"The fair gives them real-life experience that reaches out beyond the class," Beuson said. "They (students) are using the language. It's a different style."

Beuson has been involved with the language fair for four years.

He said he appreciates all the opportunities it brings.

"It continues to motivate them with the language," Beuson said.

JHS students dominated many of the competitive events.

"You get to learn about the different cultures," said Sarah Bollin, JHS senior. "You can only do so much in class."

Jessica Firor/The Chart

Libby Negus, sophomore French major, works with students from Purdy High School at a French conversation station.

Naoko Onodo/The Chart

Talavera will leave next semester to work on a Spanish e-book, but will return in the spring of 2004.

Instructor takes fall sabbatical to perfect Internet textbook

BY JOSH RAY
Diversions Editor

He has been teaching five classes a semester, more than a normal load for any teacher, and now he's taking a break.

"This is one of the most wonderful things that has happened to me," said Dr. Pedro Talavera, associate professor of communications. "And I think that the college will gain also."

Talavera will be taking a sabbatical in the fall semester to work on a Spanish project. The project is a Spanish manual e-book which will be used for Internet Spanish classes. The e-book will be like a normal textbook, but the user is supplied with video, audio and everything else all on one CD-ROM.

Talavera said the program is mostly done, but he is going to spend his break from teaching fixing the bugs in the program. It is a hard process, he said.

"I'm a computer nerd, but I'm not a computer programmer," he said.

He hopes the e-book will help the long distance students with their online Spanish classes.

Mike Stevenson, junior speech communications major, has used one of the CDs Talavera has in his regular class. He said it was much better than any of the other materials he has used. He said the "cheap" programs did little to help him out of the classroom.

"It didn't even help much in Spanish I," Stevenson said.

He said with the other programs and workbooks, a student couldn't find out if they were doing the exercises right or wrong until class. With Talavera's program, though, Stevenson said "the answers are there." He received automatic feedback on everything he did.

"It was better than the software I purchased," he said.

He described the disc as being like online exercises, reviews and tests. He thought it helped a lot as a tutorial to his in-class experience.

"I felt like I did better on the last test," Stevenson said.

He expects the software will help people taking Spanish over the Internet.

Eventually, Talavera would also like to be able to apply the e-book to Russian classes. Dr. Tatiana Karmanova, associate professor of Russian and Spanish, is excited about the idea. She said it would "certainly help a lot with Russian."

"While there are many commercial programs for Spanish, there are almost no Russian ones," Karmanova said. "His e-book would be like the only electronic textbook."

She said Talavera has been teaching Internet classes for two years, and he has worked until midnight seven days a week perfecting things.

"It's a very labor intensive project," she said.

While she hopes he will be able to apply the program to Russian, she said entering all the information in for the Russian program would take a long time.

She admires Talavera for his patience and hard work on the project.

"You have to feel really passionate about it to do it," Karmanova said.

Talavera has been teaching more than the average number of classes since 1995 because of the shortage of Spanish teachers.

"I take another load because I'm a saint," he said.

He will be one of four teachers taking a sabbatical in the fall, but he will be the only one from the communications department. He is pleased with the opportunity.

"It is always good to have an opportunity to concentrate on a project without having to deal with the everyday work of classes," Talavera said. "It's a good way to make an improvement to your teaching."

Dr. Jay Moorman, head of the communications department, said Talavera has spent hours on developing online Spanish classes.

"In a way, he's reached a whole other level with contacting students with this superior system," Moorman said.

Talavera also hopes to be able to publish the e-book for people at other institutions to use in their long-distance classes.

When instructors take sabbaticals, they have to concentrate on a project from the College. They then have to present results one semester later.

"The College gets better teachers," Talavera said. "They get better classes."

Students who want to try out his program can go to the Missouri Southern Blackboard Web site and see the trial site. They can type in "new" as the username and "student" as the password.

Talavera will be returning to teach in the spring semester of 2004.

Ecolonomics plan progresses

BY CRAIG S. JONES
Staff Writer

One doesn't have to be rich or famous to make a difference.

One Missouri Southern graduate is doing his part to advance the causes of economy and environment.

Rob Wood graduated from Southern in December 2000 under the general studies degree program. He was also in the first class to complete the ecolonomics certificate program.

Ecolonomics is a term coined by Southern alumnus Dennis Weaver, a term that attempts to resolve a healthy environment with a healthy economy.

Dr. Tom Simpson, associate professor of political science, is one of the instructors who leads the capstone course for the 13-hour certificate program. He said it was like a light went on for Wood.

"It literally changed his outlook on life," Simpson said.

Wood was more colorful in his assessment.

"I would have to say it was more like a bolt of lightning," Wood said. "I knew that I wanted to be in a position where I could change things."

Dr. John Messick, dean of the school of arts and sciences, was involved in the formation and adoption of the program.

He said the ideas of ecolonomics are used to help structure industry, manufacturing and retailing so it is economically beneficial for this to happen.

"I believe the time has come that we need to consider reducing waste and think seriously about total recycling of items that are now disposable, from pop bottles to computers," Messick said.

Wood said the ideas of ecolonomics, of the sustainability of development, are important to everybody.

"The concepts of sustainability will replace current ideas of consumerism," Wood said. "We are a nation of consumers, because we've had so much for so long. It doesn't matter if you're an environmentalist or not; it's about having the natural resources to support the things to consume."

Wood is employed by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma as a water quality officer. He said his work for the tribe is funded by grant money under the Clean Water Act of 1972.

Wood said his job is to collect data about pollutant levels in the watershed above Grand Lake of the Cherokees, including Spring River and many streams.

He said the idea is to gain a working knowledge of the pollutant levels so policies can be set forth to have positive environmental and economic impacts.

Wood and fellow Southern graduate Anna Wyman have formed a non-profit company called Sustainable Ideas, Inc. Wood said the company is seeking ways for the ideas of ecolonomics to be implemented locally.

Wood and Wyman recently spoke to the Joplin Homebuilders' Association about incorporating the principles of sustainability into the building of a home. Wood said these kind of homes may cost more up front, but that the cost and impact of the home would be much less over time.

"Unless you like throwing money away, these ideas are important," he said.

Wood is adamant about the importance of the program to Southern.

"Ecolonomics has the potential to be the biggest thing to hit this College, ever," he said. "Companies are looking for people who can come in with these ideas. It can be a huge force for this College — because it really is the future."

Graduates begin nursing careers within 'prestigious' Mayo Clinic

BY MANDI STEELE
International Editor

Taking their nursing skills up north, three nursing students will head to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., after graduating this spring.

Dr. Barbara Box, director of the nursing department, said this is the first time three Missouri Southern nursing graduates will be going to such a "noteworthy" clinic in one year.

Box said the Mayo Clinic is one of the more "prestigious" health care facilities in the nation.

The Mayo Clinic offers patients doctor visits, testing, surgery and hospital care under one roof and has the reputation of solving complex medical questions. Half-a-million people from around the world choose the clinic each year for medical care.

Michelle Powell is one of the nursing students who will start work at the clinic.

"I've wanted to be a nurse all my life," she said.

Powell is excited about being hired and said she never thought she would have the opportunity to work at "one of the top hospitals in the country for nurses."

She said the clinic allows its nurses many decision-making opportunities and has certain criteria it has to meet for nursing excellence.

"They really concentrate on their nursing staff," Powell said.

Powell has worked at St. John's Hospital for seven years. She filled out an application for the Mayo Clinic, sat through a three-hour interview and was hired to join the clinic's nursing staff.

The two other nursing students, Kathryn Howell and Sarah Wohlwend, were hired on after a summer internship at the clinic.

"They were just so excited about their internship," Box said.

She said internships at the clinic are competitive.

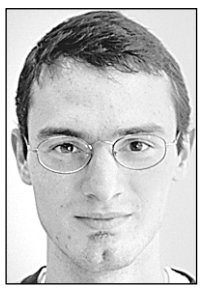
"We're just excited that students are taking advantage of these internships," Box said.

Two years ago, a graduate from Southern also joined the nursing staff at the Mayo Clinic. Box said the student is still there and loves it.

Powell and Box agreed working at the Mayo Clinic will be a great hands-on opportunity in the nursing field.

Editor's Column

Bad news supports respect for brother



T.J. Gerlach
City Editor

What do you do when one of the people you most admire hits bottom?

I found myself asking this question earlier this year when I found out my older brother called my parents asking for help with his alcoholism.

I was told he called and said he was scared.

The next day, my parents took him to a counselor.

My brother saw the counselor once a week for a while. She suggested to him to start attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and going out with people his own age.

I have always looked up to both my brothers, so when I heard this news, I was disheartened to say the least.

Soon after I found out, a friend of mine could see something was bugging me. After I told her, she helped me calm down by telling me of a similar experience she had and what I might expect my brother to go through.

What she told me helped dull the pain, but not completely. The worst part was I wasn't even supposed to know about it. My brother asked my parents not to tell anyone, but my mother wanted my other brother and me to know.

For the first couple of weeks, I had to update myself by asking my parents since I couldn't talk to my brother about the problem. So many nights I wanted to call him, send him an e-mail or an instant message online.

I wanted to ask how he was doing, or maybe see if he might open up and tell me what was happening.

About a month after he started his recovery, I went home for the weekend. He met my parents and me for dinner that Friday night and asked my mom in a whisper if I knew.

Once the cat was out of the bag, I was speechless. I wanted to tell him how proud I was that he was getting help and making friends — the right kind of friends.

Now that I think about it, I guess he never really hit the bottom – only my heart did when I learned my brother wasn't the person I always thought he was.

Now I realize he's better than I had always thought; I look up to him now more than ever.

Another friend of mine found out recently her brother admitted himself into a rehab center.

All I can say to her, or anyone in a similar situation, is after all the hardship is over, he will more than likely be a better person.

T.J. Gerlach is the City Editor for The Chart. His opinions are his own and don't necessarily reflect those of the entire staff.

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE

THE CHART

Missouri Southern State College,
3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, Mo. 64801-1595

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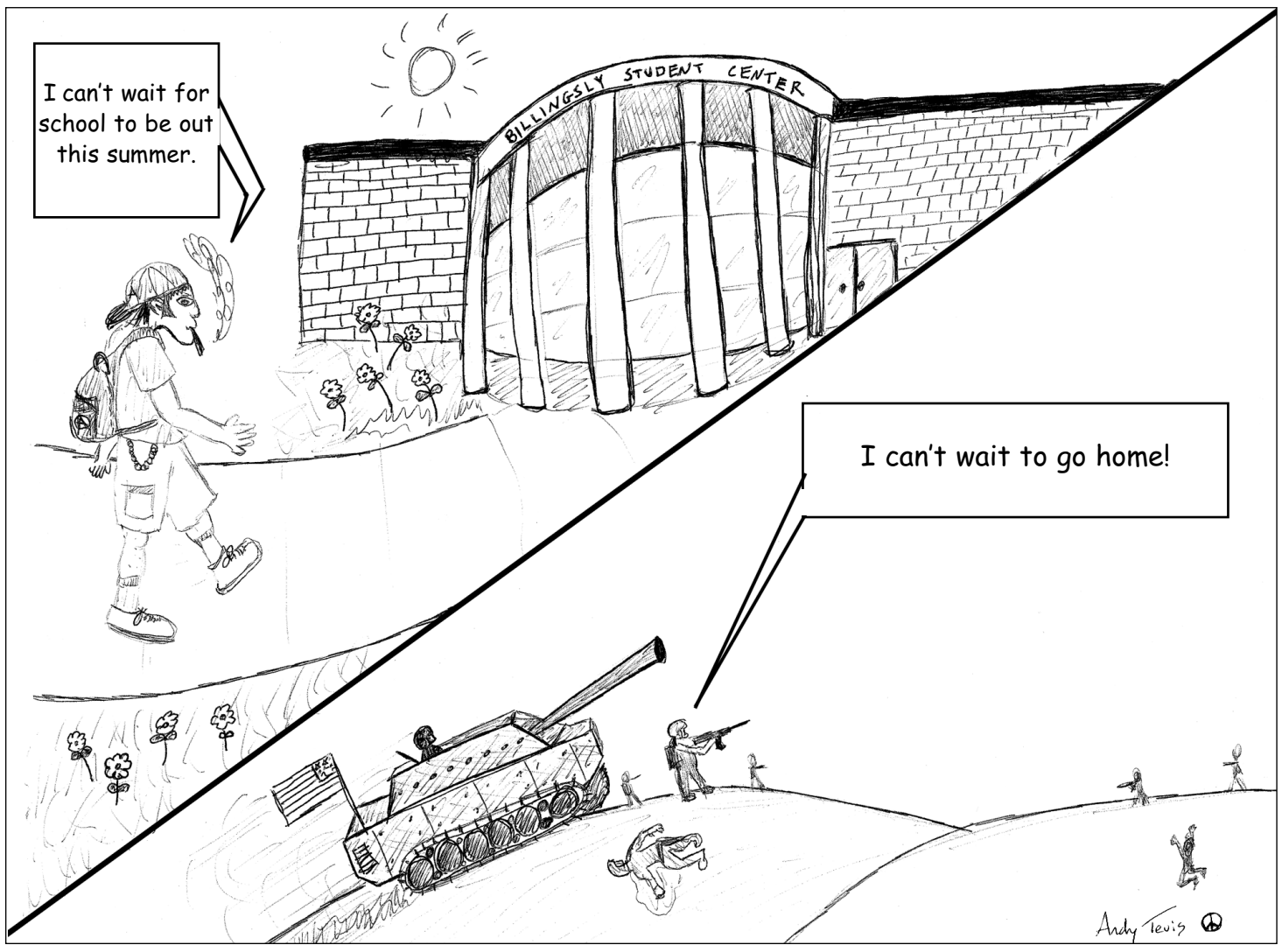
The Chart, the newspaper of Missouri Southern State College, is published weekly, except during holidays and examination periods, from August through May by students in communications as a laboratory experience. Views expressed do not represent the opinions of the administration, faculty or the student body.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor must be signed originals and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. *The Chart* reserves the right to edit or refuse letters on the basis of length, clarity, accuracy and liability. Letters will be chosen for publication by *The Chart* editors according to space considerations.



Student soldiers need support

Chart Opinion

College can be stressful. Balancing classes, homework, jobs and a social life can be difficult.

But imagine having to answer the call of duty.

Twenty-one students at Missouri Southern have been deployed to the war or are facing deployment. And 21 students are feeling pride for serving their country but must also be experiencing nervousness like never before.

These students give others on campus, as well as community members, something to be proud of.

While studying at the College, these students have been more than willing to put their lives on the line for the nation.

By fully refunding the tuition and fees of the deployed students at the last Board of Regents meeting, Southern's administration committed a respectful act.

But what these students need more than anything is support from their fellow students and faculty.

Whether you are in favor of the war or not, the deployed have no choice. They have to serve our country, so they deserve our compassion, because, obviously, they are doing this for us.

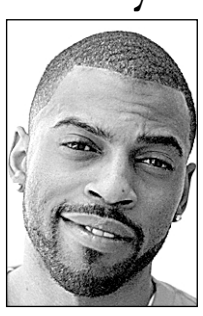
One deployed student even said he's glad to see people protesting the war because that means they are exercising their rights as U.S. citizens.

And we would not be able to enjoy the rights and privileges of this country if it wasn't for the courage of students like these in the military.

We can only hope the war will end soon for the safety of these students.

Campus Voice

How do you feel about college students having to leave school to fulfill military obligations?

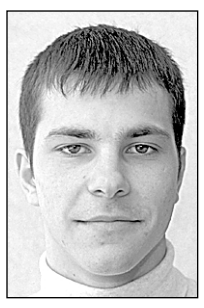


"I feel that it is a sad thing that happens, and, as a reward, they should be allowed free books and/or tuition for their service."

James Harris
Senior
Criminal Justice
Major

"I feel it hurts all Americans when you put foreign war before American economics."

Shelley Manley
Senior
Pre-pharmacy
Major



"I think that there is a lack of human resources in the military. To defend one's country, students should leave school for that. Otherwise, no."

Roman Prokipchin
Freshman
CIS
Major

"I think it's wonderful to leave school to fulfill military obligations because it would be nice around this time to help others, especially for military obligations."

Stanis L. Nguyen
Freshman
Undecided
Major

"I have mixed feelings on the issue and I beleive that if students are in college trying to reach their goals to our economy, they should not be ripped away from their dreams."

Nikki Warden
Sophomore
CADD
Major

Letter

Many goals accomplished by Student Senate

Student Senator John Tipton summed up Student Senate this year when he said: "We have had a good Senate this year because we did things. We had some controversy but without controversies, you're not accomplishing anything." This year Student Senate was able to accomplish goals that others have only talked about. The goals accomplished include but are not limited to: naming the streets on campus, organizing a donation drive to support our classmates who are currently serving our country in the military, passing a resolution regarding equality on campus, the resolution is currently being debated by the Board of Regents, lobbying in Jefferson City for university status, coordinated a fund-raiser for the United Way and addressing various proposals from the student body.

Why are many students at Missouri Southern not informed as to what their student leaders are doing? Because *The Chart* has chosen to put its primary focus on weekly appropriation requests rather than the progressive projects Student Senate has tackled. This focus was highlighted in the April 18, 2003 edition of *The Chart* with *The Chart* Opinion that Senate is unorganized and poorly planned. I can assure you, the student body, Student Senate has been well organized and fair. Examples of this Student Senate's organization can be seen all over campus with successful projects such as the new street signs and the support our troop's donation boxes. In regard to statements about individual appropriation requests, Student Senate possesses clear polices and has adhered to them. These policies are stated in our constitution and have been unremittingly followed the entire academic year. In addition to the policies stated in the Student Senate Constitution, this year the student senate finance committee chose to enact guidelines to ensure all campus organizations were treated equally. While some organizations on campus received less money because of these guidelines, the guidelines are constitutional and have given all organizations an equal opportunity when requesting Student Senate funds. This year has been a year that the students, faculty and staff at Missouri Southern can be proud of! Student Senate has accomplished many goals and has many more that will be finalized in the upcoming months.

Zack Odem
Student Senate President

Want to see your letter here?

Letters to The Chart are always a nice surprise, even if we don't agree with them. So next time you want to disagree with us, or, heaven forbid, agree with us, write a letter, or send us an e-mail. We're always anxious to hear from you.

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www.thechartonline.com

Students win award at Arab delegation

BY MELISSA MORGAN
Staff Writer

Twelve Missouri Southern students representing Egypt took first place at the 22nd Model Arab World League during the conference held from April 10-12 in Dallas.

This is the fifth win for the College at a Model League.

The League was established in 1983 and is based loosely on the United Nations. Each of the 22 Arab countries is represented by a different college or university from the United States

Out of the 17 schools, from Boston to Santa Barbara, present, Southern was the only Missouri college to participate.

Dr. Conrad Gubera, professor of sociology, involved Southern with the program 11 years ago after spending several summers in the Middle East. He currently teaches a course on the Arab world.

In the early days of Southern's involvement with the program, Gubera had to raise the money to attend independently of the College. The program is now supported by the College's administration.

"In the past, the Ozarks' Hells Angels Club used to donate to our fund," Gubera said.

Students begin preparing for the conference as late as 10 days before the competition by researching the current issues concerning the country they represent in social, economic, security, Palestinian affairs and environmental and financial affairs.

"The students research the topics and then try to write resolutions to bring to their specific committees once they get to the conference to change or rectify a situation," Gubera said.

The conference agenda consists of a keynote speaker from the real Arab World League, followed by student committees on different topics breaking up and electing officers to lead the discussion. Four Southern students were elected to these positions.

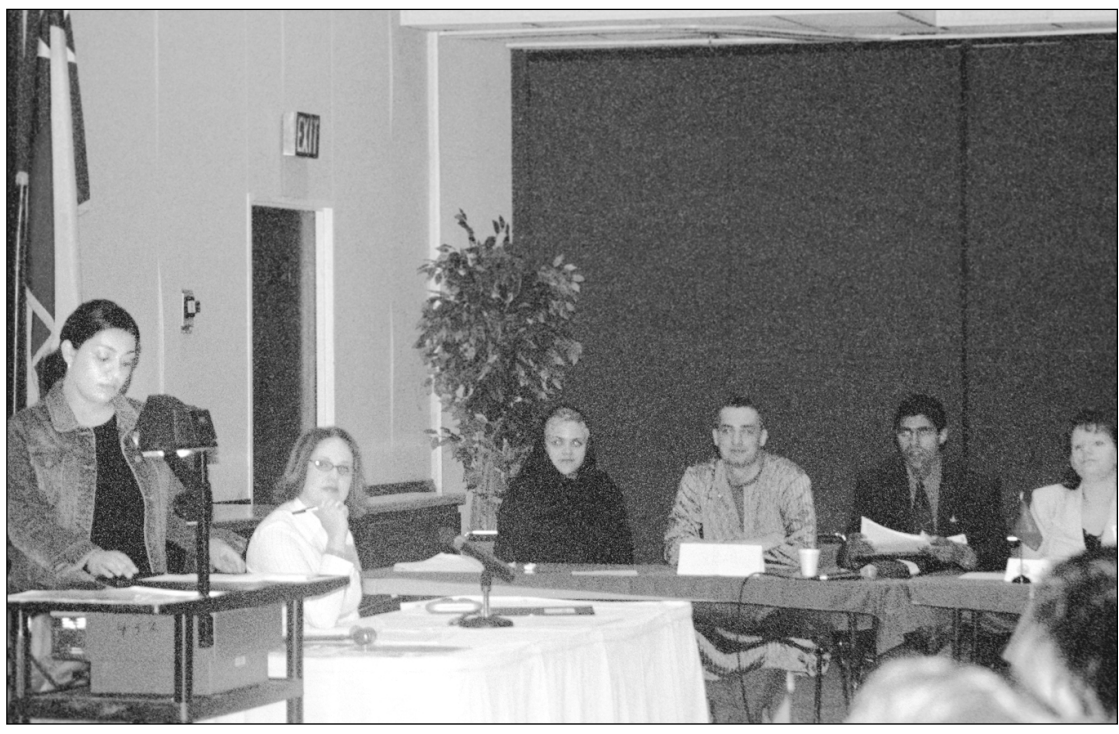
The committees then proceed to introduce their resolutions for improving the Arab World, and all of the 500 students and faculty members present deliberate on the cost of the resolution and look for weak spots in the other delegations' arguments.

After the most worthy resolutions are passed, the winners of the conference are announced at an awards banquet.

Southern won three out of the 10 awards given to individual students for outstanding delegates. Southern also won the conference's overall outstanding delegation award.

Melinda Dugdale, junior sociology major, was new to Southern's delegation but was successful in passing a women's rights resolution at the Model League.

"I got involved because it seemed interesting to learn about a different culture," Dugdale said.



Special to The Chart

Twelve Southern students debate politics as they represent Egypt in the Arab World League.

"The competition was good, everyone had a good attitude and there were hardly any arguments."

The purpose of the Model League is to educate college and high school students about the Arab World, but Gubera doesn't limit the students' experience.

"This is a tremendous immersion for the students," he said. "They learn about oil problems, fundamental Islam, relations with the U.S. and also learn the language of political resolutions. The students come away from this feeling better about themselves and learning something about another culture, and I think that's really the best part about going to these conferences."

Another purpose of the League is sending all resolutions passed during the conference to the real Arab World League, headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. The resolutions are debated and sometimes passed and put into Arab law.

"It just makes you think that some of these laws in the Arab countries were thought up by American college students," Gubera said.

All students are invited to participate in the Model League. Previous delegates have come from not only the social sciences but nursing, physics, art and law enforcement.

Anyone interested in being involved with the next conference can contact Gubera for information.

Instructor shares knowledge at South African university

BY MELISSA MORGAN
Staff Writer

An international scholarship allowed a Missouri Southern business instructor to share his expertise with the rest of the world.

Dr. Brad Kleindl, assistant dean of the school of business, returned in March from 22 days of teaching at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. His trip was made possible by the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program.

Fulbright is an international exchange program that allows professionals and educators to work with professional counterparts in other countries on curriculum and faculty development.

Dr. Brad Kleindl
Assistant Dean
School of Business

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars assists in the administration of the program for faculty and professionals.

The program was proposed to Congress in 1945 by Sen. J. William Fulbright as a vehicle for promoting "mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries of the world."

"The Fulbright, in higher education, is a very well known and respected program," Kleindl said. "It sends large numbers of people around the world every year to basically foster international relationships, have U.S. faculty members become more internationally in-tuned and allows for very interesting international experiences."

Kleindl chose the scholarship to South Africa because he had never been to the country and the program offered was in his area of specialty.

"I had received another Fulbright request to see if I was willing to go to a school in Uganda," Kleindl said. "While I had no objective to going there, given the political problems that exist right now, and their proximity to Somalia, I didn't feel it was probably the best place to go. But South Africa was a long way from any conflict."

While in South Africa, Kleindl taught undergraduate, MBA and post-graduate classes in e-commerce and e-business.

Teaching international students provided several challenges for Kleindl.

"The major difference between American students and many other international students is the lack of interaction in the classroom," he said. "They are accustomed to a lecture mode where the instructor just lectures, and they rarely ask questions."

Another potential problem was the language barrier. Most of the students spoke English, but for some of them, Africaans is their primary language.

TURN TO **KLEINDL**, PAGE 12

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Diversions

To God? Or not to God?

Theist, skeptic debate existence of creator

By Michelle Conty
Associate Editor

Opposing sides of the age-old debate on the existence of a divine being squared off April 21, on the campus of Missouri Southern.

The Campus Activities Board sponsored the "Existence of God Debate" between philosopher and theologian, Dr. Doug Geivett and publisher of *Skeptic Magazine* and founder of the Skeptics Society, Dr. Michael Shermer.

"We were pleased with the event," said Jeremy Sturgell, lectures chair for CAB.

"Turn out was good from the campus and community, and both speakers were sought after by students with questions after the debate."

Sturgell said more than 500 people attended the event.

"We received calls from Kansas City and Tulsa about when the debate was scheduled," he said.

Geivett is a professor of philosophy and department chair in the Talbot School of Theology at Biola University, La Mirada, Calif.

He specializes in the areas of epistemology (the study of knowledge), philosophy of religion and philosophical theology.

His published books include *Contemporary Perspectives on Religious Epistemology, Evil and the Evidence for God* and *In Defense of Miracles*. He is a member of the Committee on the Status and Future of Philosophy for the American Philosophical Association, and a member of the executive committee of the Evangelical Philosophical Society. He has served as the minister to college students at churches in the Pacific Northwest and in Southern California.

Shermer is the host of the Skeptics Lecture Series at Caltech, and the co-host and producer of the 13-hour Fox Family series, "Exploring the Unknown."

His next book is *The Borderlands of Science*, about the fuzzy land between science and pseudo-science.

His book *How We Believe: The Search for God in an Age of Science*, presents his theory on the origins of religion and why people believe in God.

"We are not against religion," Shermer said. "Rather, we believe in human intelligence, science and creativity."

The average demographic for Shermer's lecture series has changed over the years. What "used to be older white men, mainly retired scientists" has gained interest from a wider social group.

"Half the attendants for my lectures are hearing me speak for the first time," he said. "Half are students, the other half are not, and there is a good mix of men, women, young and old."

Geivett believes the best explanation for the creation of the world is that "God had something to do with it."

"The creation of the world cries out for explanation, making it reasonable to believe in God," he said. "Otherwise, if an infinite number of events must happen before a specific event can happen, then that event will never happen."

"Not every event has a cause," Shermer said. "Quantum events such as the radioactive decay of the beta particle do not have a cause, it just occurs."

"I choose not to believe because there is no evidence," Shermer said. "To me, the burden of proof is on the believer. You cannot prove a negative."

Shermer and Geivett have debated more than six times.

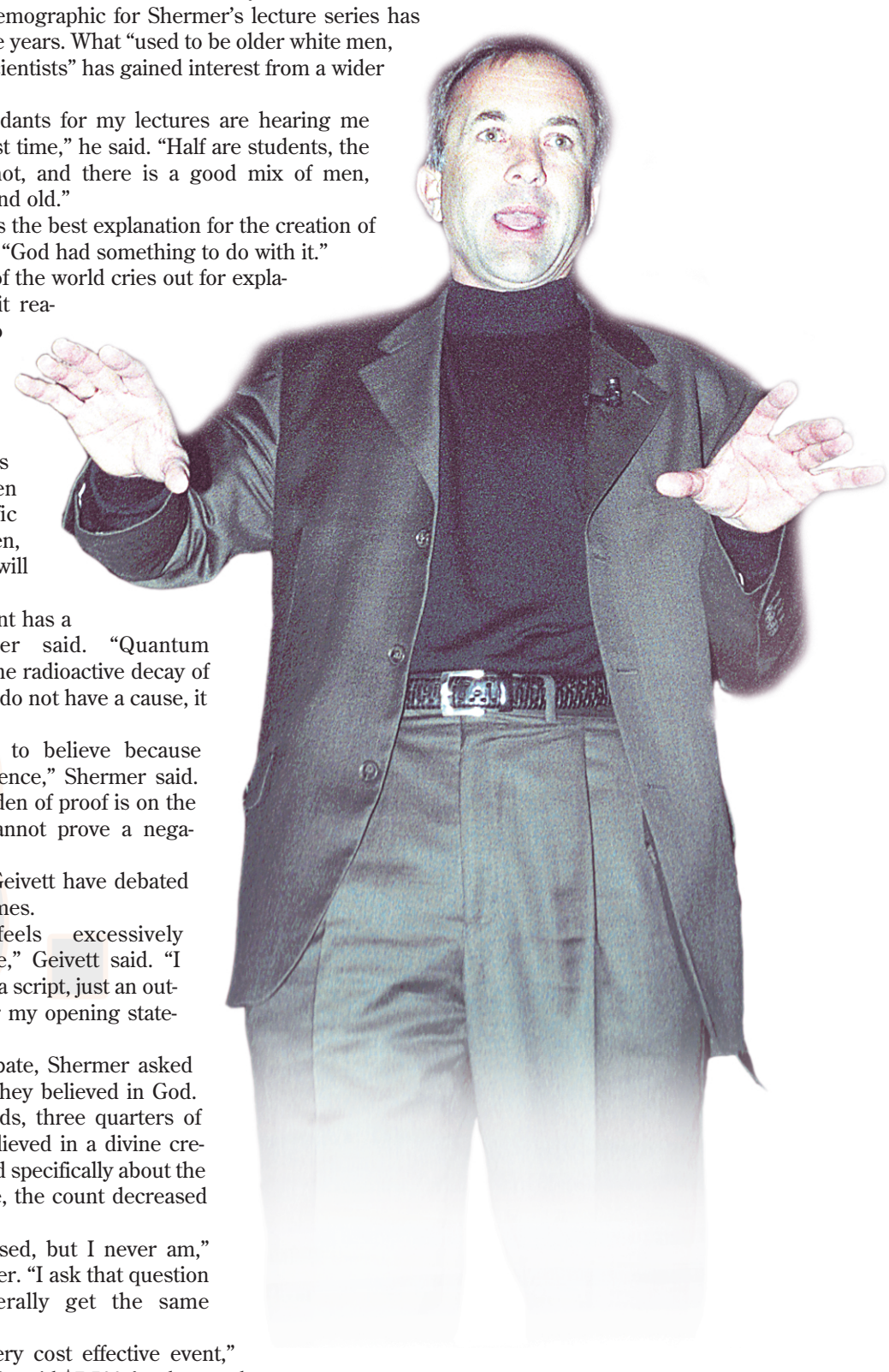
"It never feels excessively rehearsed to me," Geivett said. "I don't work from a script, just an outline of points for my opening statement."

During the debate, Shermer asked the audience if they believed in God. By show of hands, three quarters of the audience believed in a divine creator. When asked specifically about the God of the Bible, the count decreased to two thirds.

"I acted surprised, but I never am," Shermer said later. "I ask that question often and generally get the same response."

"This was a very cost effective event," Sturgell said. "We paid $7,500 for the speakers and approximately 500 people attended. Divided out, that's a reasonable $15 per person."

Dr. Doug Geivett
Theist



Photos by Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Dr. Michael Shermer
Agnostic Nontheist

Big dog, small rabbit give entertainment

Review

Jeff Reid
Executive Editor

A 6-foot tall dog and a 3-foot tall rabbity-thing. If there was ever a better basis for a comic book, I don't know what it is.

The Collected Sam & Max by Steve Purcell is, as the title states, a collection of various Sam and Max comics that have appeared over the years, and a few extras, like a board game and several interesting how-to guides. Like, how to eat at a backwoods diner and live, and how to make a, "loveable paper bag Max-head puppet," just to name a few.

For someone to truly appreciate Sam and Max, you definitely have to have a very skewed sense of humor.

That said, the comics are hilarious.

One of the best things are the illustrations. Sam and Max could be going about whatever business, while off in the corner is a pack of rats dressed up like pirates trying to harpoon a small dog.

But where the book truly shines is in the dialogue. While Sam (the giant dog), generally stays on track with the plot, Max (the giant rabbity-thing), is always off saying random things, such as throwing a typewriter out a window while screaming, "Death from above!" Funny stuff.

Sam and Max have made numerous other appearances, including *Sam & Max Hit the Road* for PC. The game was originally released in 1993, but if you can manage to find a copy on eBay, buy it. The game is just like the comic book come to life.

And besides, name another game where you get to use Jesse James' severed hand to steal stuff?

Also, there was a short-lived television series, *Sam & Max: Freelance Police*, which was a loose adaptation of the comic book.

While it was still funny, enough little changes were made that kept the show from being as funny as the book or game. But what do you expect, the target audience was kids watching Saturday morning cartoons?

And, for those eagerly awaiting a new fix, Sam and Max are set to return to the PC in early 2004 for a follow-up to *Sam & Max Hit the Road*. And all I can say is it better not get screwed up, or heads are gonna roll.

The Collected Sam & Max is for anyone with a sense of humor and a love for the bizarre. If you've never heard of Sam and Max, go out and buy the book now. (You'll probably need to go to an online bookstore to get it.)

And buy the game, too. It's worth every penny.

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An 'Existence of God' debate was held April 21. Read the story for information on the event.

CAB plans Western festivities

BY JEFF REID
Executive Editor

The Campus Activities Board plans to put the spurs to the bull next semester. Literally.

With this semester drawing to a close, the CAB began making plans for the fall 2003 semester and Homecoming. The Homecoming theme for next fall, "Southern Stampede," is giving birth to ideas like mechanical bulls, a makeshift saloon in the Lion's Den and a country band, just to name a few.

"My goal is to have an awesome Homecoming," said Julie Blackford, director of student activities.

While no plans have been set yet, Blackford hopes to have all the events planned out before the start of the fall semester. To help accomplish this,

CAB
Campus Activities Board

Blackford plans to hold CAB meetings once a month over the summer break.

Also up for consideration was a dance during Homecoming. Lyndse Bergen, family events chairperson, was shocked by the fact that there weren't more dances at Missouri Southern.

"I remember when I first came to Southern, I was amazed that we didn't have any dances for Homecoming," she said.

The tentative plan is hold a dance, including several different activities, such as making signs for the Homecoming game, costume contests, prizes and games. CAB hopes to have everything ready to go before the fall so it can promote the events at Fresh Start, Welcome Week and Orientation classes.

Plans are set for Finals Madness, including a rock wall, laser tag, a cash cube, where students can win money, gift certificates and several other prizes. Finals Madness is set for May 7.

This semester's final CAB meeting is at 2 p.m Monday in the second floor lounge of Billingsly Student Center. It is open to all students.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Low brass instructor, Dr. Jeffrey Macomber plays David Amram's "Aritta" during his April 18 recital in Webster Hall Auditorium. Dr. Cynthia Hukill also performed during the event.

Recitals draw small crowd, still give 'fun' performance

BY LANDON FRY
Staff Writer

Trombone, piano and clarinet filled the interior of Webster Hall Auditorium on April 18 and 21 as two recitals were performed.

One of the recitals featured two faculty members, Dr. Jeff Macomber, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Cynthia Hukill, director of piano studies. The other recital featured Connie Keeler, senior music education major.

On April 18, Hukill and Macomber played numerous pieces from 20th century composers, each for trombone and piano, except for one trombone solo.

The pieces included a sonata for piano and trombone by Paul Hindemith, "Suite for Solo Trombone" , by David Amram, and a sonata by Eric Iwazen.

"I think probably the strongest piece would be the sonata by Paul Hindemith," Macomber said. "My favorite piece to play is probably the sonata by Eric Inwazen, it's just a lot of fun to play."

Both Hukill and Macomber believe the performance went well despite low attendance, which Hukill attributes to the concert being held on Good Friday.

Recitals for instructors are an important aspect of the field, Hukill said.

"For musicians public performance is the equivalent of writing and publishing for a lot of other professions, so it's kind of your professional activity that you do in order to be held viable," she said.

Keeler's senior clarinet recital was on April 21. There she played Mozart's "Concerto for Clarinet," one of the three "Fantasy" pieces by Robert Schumann and finished with Ernst Krenek's "Suite for Clarinet and Piano."

Technically, Keeler began working on the recital when she started attending Missouri Southern, but most of the pieces were worked up during the fall of 2002, said Dr. Charles Thelen, head of the music department.

"It's significant and satisfying and everyone was pleased, I think, with the performance," he said. "And of course, it's always a great relief to have them finish too."

Spring concert features light effects, dancing

BY MATT CAUFIELD
Staff Writer

Missouri Southern will host the annual Spring Choral Concert at Taylor Auditorium.

The concert will feature three major ensembles at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, said Bud Clark, director of choral activities, who is also responsible for the organization of the concert.

Southern Exposure will start the concert off, the Chamber Choir will follow and the Concert Choral will conclude.

Admission is free to attend the event.

Past years the concert has drawn on average of 1,000 people, Clark said.

Taylor Auditorium can accommodate slightly more than 2,000 people.

The Concert Chorale will have 75 to 80 students, the Chamber Choir will have 26 students, and Southern Exposure will have 20 students performing.

Clark said approximately one-third of the students performing at the concert are music majors.

This year's concert will incorporate a multimedia presentation with the concert chorales' performance.

A Power Point presentation will be utilized through the performance, especially during the patriotic performance, Clark said.

Cameras will videotape the concert and will be projecting images of the concert on a large screen. Lighting effects will also be used, Clark said.

The Chamber Choir will perform some of the same numbers as it did at the state competition, Clark said.

Clark said only three colleges were chosen to sing at the competition.

"It was quite an honor to be chosen to represent Missouri Southern," Clark said.

Southern Exposure will sing and dance, performing mostly pop numbers and will do a jazz number as well, Clark said.

Southern Exposure tours to various high schools in the area and is used as a recruitment to for the College, Clark said.

Members in Southern Exposure are chosen by their personality and talent, Clark said.

Dusty Wooldridge, sophomore music education major, will be performing for his first time on the Southern Exposure choir.

Last year Wooldridge performed on the Chamber Choir and the Concert Chorale.

Wooldridge believes this year's talent pool is better than last year's.

"Exposure has toured a lot this year and was invited to the Webb City Show Choir Festival," Wooldridge said.

Daryl Foster, junior vocal music major, will perform on the Concert Chorale and Chamber Choir.

Foster will perform "America the Beautiful."

"I enjoy singing; it is a lot of fun," Foster said. "It gives us a chance to express ourselves."

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Area Events

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Josh Ray at 625-9311.

25 *Confidence, Identity, It Runs in The Family* and *The Real Cancun* open at the Northstar 14 Theaters.

The RHA MSSC Golf Tournament will be held at Loma Linda South.

26 Lions baseball will play @ 1 p.m. at Emporia State.

27 Lions baseball will play @ noon at Emporia State.

Lions and Lady Lions track will compete in the MIAA Heptathlon/Decathlon Championships in Maryville. The event runs through April 28.

28 The last CAB meeting of the semester will be held @ 2 p.m. in the second floor lounge of Billingsly.

Lions golf will will compete in the MIAA Tournament. The event runs through April 29.

29 Lions baseball will play @ 6:30 p.m. at Arkansas.

A senior sax recital will be held @ 7:30 p.m. in Webster Auditorium.

30 Student Senate will meet @ 5 p.m. in Billingsly Room 310.

1 Catholic Campus Ministries will meet @ noon in Billingsly, Room 311.

LDSSA will meet @ noon in Billingsly, Room 306.

FCA will meet @ 7 p.m. in the #2 lounge of Billingsly.

The Spring choir concert will be held @ 7:30 p.m. in Taylor Auditorium.

Weekend Happenings:

Kitchen Pass::
Friday: Hamilton Loomis 9:30 p.m.
Saturday: Something Jones 9:30 p.m.

Kharacters::
Friday: Big Smitty and the Mambas 9 p.m.
Saturday: Dakota Blue 9 p.m.

Useless Information

NOTE: Information for this section taken from http://members.tripod.com/~Mitchell_J/

All opinions in parenthesis are the opinions of Josh Ray, Diversions Editor. They don't reflect the opinions of *The Chart* staff.

Because of the release of endorphins, a female orgasm is a powerful painkiller, so headaches are in fact a bad excuse not to have sex. (ha, one excuse shot down)

The Ramses brand condom is named after the great pharaoh Ramses II who fathered more than 160 children. (doesn't say much about the condom, does it?)

The world record for cow-chip tossing (under the strict non-sphericalization and 100 percent organic rule of 1986) is 56.70 meters. (what a crap-slinger, eh?)

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair. (will copper enriched shampoo make me smarter?)

Most married couples knew each other at least two years prior to the wedding. (except in Joplin, where it's about two to three months)

Henry II was murdered by his homosexual lover, who pushed a red hot poker 0.5 meters up his rectum. (no comment from the jury)

In Alabama, it is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while operating a vehicle. (not in any other states though... looks like it's time to break out the blindfold and take a drive)

In Illinois, it is illegal for anyone to give lighted cigars to dogs, cats and other domesticated animals kept as pets. (even if they're of legal age?)

If you bring a raccoon's head to the Henniker, N. H. town hall, you are entitled to receive ten cents from the town.(sweet... easy money)

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

City hands out bins recognizing Earth Day

For Earth Day, the City of Joplin Recycling Department will give away free backyard compost bins.

The bins, made from two-foot by four-foot welded wire, are available to Joplin residents only.

Instructional brochures and composting demonstrations will also be available.

The bins can be picked up from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Joplin Recycling Center, 1310 W. A St.

For information, persons may contact Mary Anne Phillips, City of Joplin recycling coordinator, at 624-0820, ext. 501, or consult the "Joplin Recycling Events" link on the city's Web site, http://www.joplinmo.org.

Annual event occurs at Carver Monument

The ninth annual March for Parks/Earth Day occurs Saturday.

This year's event features bluegrass bands, environmental exhibits and activities, and a walk-a-thon on the 10-mile Carver Historic Trail.

The event starts at 9 a.m. at the George Washington Carver National Monument.

For information, persons may contact the park at 325-4151.

St. John's offers free diabetes screenings

St. John's Health Connection will host free diabetes screenings.

The screenings will be from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Health Connection conference room. Health Connection is located in Northpark Mall, 101 N. Range Line Road.

No appointment is needed and fasting is preferred but not required.

For information, persons may call 625-2000.

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Richard Lawson, owner of Lumpy's B-B-Q, prepares a catered lunch. He said Lumpy's has catered for several area companies, groups and families.

Lumpy's caters to city

BY MATT CAUFIELD
Staff Writer

Richard Lawson, owner of Lumpy's B-B-Q, bought Jone's Market in 1996.

Lawson initially bought the market with the intent of running a grocery store, but when he started smoking meats and selling them, he found his business was taking a different turn.

Originally from Columbus, Kans., Lawson worked at the B.F. Goodrich plant in Miami, Okla., until it closed in the 1980s.

Lawson has owned a convenience store and a bar and ran the convenience store until he sold it in 1998.

In 1996, he bought Jone's Market and ran it as a grocery store for two years.

While smoking meats for sale, he found his customers would buy them to eat immediately. Sixty days later, after opening the market, Lawson decided to add three tables and 12 chairs for customers to sit down and eat.

January 1999, Lumpy's became a full-time restaurant, and Lawson abandoned the grocery market.

Although Lumpy's was a full-time restaurant, it did not have its grand opening until April 16, 1999.

Lumpy's seats approximately 100 patrons.

The restaurant has done catering events for numerous companies, groups and families in the region.

Lawson said the summertime is the busiest time for catering.

He said the largest group he has catered for was approximately 750 to 1,000 people.

Lumpy's has served several celebrities, including former Missouri Southern alumnus, Rod Smith.

Lawson has plans in the future to add a 20-foot by 26-foot room on the east side of his restaurant.

He said he wants to build the room for private parties and to add extra space for customers.

Lawson hopes in the future he will be able to expand his parking lot.

He said his restaurant does not have enough parking.

He believes people oftentimes do not stop because they think there isn't enough room inside.

Lumpy's offers a lunch special 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and happy hour specials from 4-7 p.m.

Lawson believes the brisket sandwich is the best meal at lunchtime but said baby-back ribs are the restaurant's "signature" item.

"Our best meal is probably the salad, baby-back ribs and twice-baked potatoes," Lawson said.

"We make everything from scratch. A lot of people don't realize most restaurants in Joplin serve precooked meats."

Galen Bowman, resident of Joplin, and his wife, Jean, said they eat at Lumpy's at least twice a week.

"I haven't eaten anything that is not good," Bowman said. "I also like it because it is not fancy."

Theater opens in Webb City, rents to church

BY MATT CAUFIELD
Staff Writer

The Joplin metropolitan area has a new movie theater to choose from.

Brady Moses of Webb City opened the Route 66 Theatre April 4.

Moses has been involved in the cinema business since he was in high school.

While working several years at different theaters, Moses said he had always had the idea of owning a theater.

"It kind of got in my blood," Moses said.

After spending two years negotiating for the building that now houses his theater, Moses bought it and restored it, sparing as much of the original artwork as possible.

"I think it is pretty unique when you can go in a building this old and still find that stuff," Moses said.

It usually shows movies three weeks after they have been released, Moses said.

He said showing movies later is cheaper and enables the theater to charge its customers lower prices.

Ticket prices are $5 for adults and $4 for children, seniors and matinees. Matinees are held Saturdays and Sundays. Showtimes are 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 p.m. on Fridays.

Tuesday evenings, students pay $4 with their college identification.

Londa Roy, Carl Junction resident, said she likes having a movie theater close by so she doesn't have to drive to Joplin.

Webb City resident Randy Mell said he came to the theater to see the building and a movie.

"The floor is not sticky, and it is clean," Mell said.

He said he enjoyed the restored building and the nostalgia it offers.

Camp Joy Ministries holds church services on Sundays in the building. The ministry pays rent to use the facility.

Moses said speakers, bands and any other individuals interested can rent the facility.

He said the theater has a 24-channel equalizer that can be used by those who rent the facility.

Individuals interested in the theater's showings or interested in renting the facility, may call 673-5300.

It is located at 24 S. Main St. in Webb City.

advertisement

Attention Graduating Students

Did you know that you can reduce the interest rate on your student loans and save thousands of dollars by consolidating your student loans after graduation?

The Higher Education Act, established by Congress, allows any graduate (or parent with PLUS loans) to consolidate their student loans by combining all their eligible student loans into a single loan issued by a new lender. Graduates who do this immediately after graduation (while they are still in their non-repayment period) are able to reduce the interest rate on all their eligible loans by 0.60% - potentially saving themselves thousands of dollars.

There are several other benefits associated with Student Loan Consolidation and these include:

• The ability to reduce your monthly interest repayments by up to 54% by extending your repayment period. This may help you in matching your income level to your repayment obligations.

• Fixing the interest rate on your loans to take advantage of the historically low interest rates that are currently available for the life of your loans. Your existing loans are variable and could rise over time as interest rates rise. Consolidation can ensure that this doesn't happen.

• Dealing with only one monthly loan repayment from one lender can make your life easier.

• Save even more on your repayments by taking advantage of 'borrower benefits' that can reduce your interest rate by up to an additional 1.25% by making electronic and on-time repayments.

Does it Matter When You Choose to Consolidate?

Yes. If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated) timing is critical to maximizing the amount that you can save with consolidation. If you wait too long to apply for consolidation, you might miss out on the opportunity to reduce the interest rate on all your loans by 0.60%.

What Does it Cost to Consolidate?

There are no fees or credit checks, nor is there any penalty for early repayment of your consolidation loan. Note however, that you can only consolidate once and consolidation can affect certain deferment and cancellation benefits associated with loans.

Are you about to Graduate?

Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). It is free and involves no obligation. SLCP will simply provide you with information on what consolidation is all about and contact you after graduation to remind you of the opportunity to reduce your interest rate by consolidating early.

For more information, call a loan counselor at 1-866-311-8076 or click on our ad at www.thechartonline.com to see if you qualify for these savings.

While visiting the paper online, be sure and sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

www.slcp.com

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Anytime Lunch Special $2.99 PLU 59
Single Pizza Special: 1 Sm. (10") 2 Topping Pizza Just $2.99
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Add An Ice Cold 20 oz Soft Drink just $1.09
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3 Pizzas $7.99 PLU 68
3 Sm (10") 2 Topping Pizzas. (2 Pizzas With Delivery)
Add Cheese Sticks & Sauce just $3.49 More!
Add An Ice Cold 2 Lt. $1.79
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For Faster Service, Mention Coupon First.
3 Pizzas + Cinnamon Sticks $9.99 PLU 66
3 Sm. (10") 1 Topping Pizzas + Fresh-Baked Sweet, Buttery Cinnamon Sticks & Icing All Just $9.99
Add An Ice Cold 2 Liter Just $1.79
Carryout Please-2 Pizzas W/ Delivery.
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EUREKA PIZZA®

Philip Martin/The Chart

The Russian Orthodox Church has spread rumors about the Baptist Church causing Baptists to be persecuted in Belarus. These rumors include Baptists eating children.

To Belarus, with *Love*

Group helps children in Russian village

Philip Martin/The Chart

The Rev. Nikolai immigrated from the country of Ukraine to pastor a Baptist church in Belarus.

"When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like seas billows roll; Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

—"It Is Well With My Soul," Horatio G. Spafford.

During spring break, a group of 30 individuals had the chance to go to the country of Belarus on a mission trip. I was part of the group. Two other students from Missouri Southern and the director of the Baptist Student Union also made the trek to Belarus. On Wednesday of that week, the group was split into teams of three to four people, including translators, and sent to several villages.

I was sent to the village of Garadischae along with Jeff Reed, of Southwest Baptist University, and our interpreter, Dima. Reed said he was excited about the first day.

"It was a pretty crazy environment to adjust to," he said. "The squatty potty made life a little different for sure."

Stepping into some of the villages across Belarus was like stepping back into time. Few houses have running water and almost every house has an outdoor toilet. Citizens take a bath once a week at a Russian sauna.

We were placed in a town that had never seen Americans before. The pastor of the local Baptist church, Nikolai, served as our host for the time we were in Garadischae. The Russian Orthodox Church has spread rumors about Baptist missionaries. These rumors have caused Baptists to be persecuted.

These rumors include Baptists sacrifice people, eat children, drink human blood during communion and have "Paradise Night." Nikolai told us a story of how he was almost arrested for holding church services in Garadischae. One day before the church was registered, he was coming down the street and saw the police and the military waiting outside the church, which is also his house. Nikolai turned around and went back the way he came and didn't return to his house until he registered the church.

"He [Nikolai] had a lot of perseverance considering the persecution he faced. I admire him for that," Reed said.

Once we entered the school, the director told us we couldn't teach without a license or we could be arrested. Later that evening, a group from the school gave us a tour of the town. The group told us a local legend about a hill the town is named for.

The legend says there was a princess who lived in the castle with her father, the king. The king would bring princes to his daughter, but she refused to marry any of them because she was in love with a peasant in the town. A wizard who lived in the town was in love with the princess, but after she refused to marry him, he had the castle buried under sand. The legend continues by saying the princess and her love were in the castle at the time, and, if you dropped a rock down the chimney that stuck out of the hill, you could hear voices. The city took down the chimney because of vandalism.

Philip Martin
Sports Editor

At the end of the night, we were told by Nikolai that America had set a deadline for war with Iraq. Reed and I were scared something might happen to us at the school the next day.

"We were faced with a lot of opposition," Reed said. "Then, I just had to break down and give it to God in prayer - 1 Peter 5:7 tells us to cast our anxieties on him and that's what it took. God wants to hear our concerns as well as our praises."

The amazing thing about the second day in Garadischae was that we were able to enter the school without a problem, and no one asked us about the war. Reed said he was surprised by how the second day went compared to the first day. He said he was amazed how we were able to go into the school without any opposition, teach the children PowerPoint and then play basketball with them later that night.

"That meant a lot to me during the trip," Reed said. "That was when I knew God was definitely taking care of us."

On March 21, we went around the town and bought materials to cook scrambled eggs, bacon, garlic bread and noodles. The original plan was to make spaghetti, but after we couldn't purchase all the ingredients, we switched to making scrambled eggs and bacon.

A group of children came to the church at 4 p.m., and the group from the school came shortly after the children. We taught the children the game "Honey, if you love me won't you please smile." We taught one girl how to say the phrase in English, but she couldn't say smile. Instead, she said smell. Of course Reed and I would laugh every time she would say it to us.

Later after the dinner, there was a church service where Reed and I sang and gave our testimonies.

"It was exciting to be a part of planting seeds in their lives," he said. "We certainly couldn't have done it without God."

After the service, the group from the school stayed, and we talked until approximately 10:30 p.m. Right after they left, the boyfriend of one of the girls there came by and threatened to beat us up the next morning. We were supposed to leave at 10 a.m., the time the guy was going to show up and put the hurt on us, but the taxi showed up at 9 a.m., and we left at 9:30.

"Overall, I think it was a great trip to learn about patience, faith and encouraging each other as a team," Reed said. "We definitely learned to face things we would never see here in America."

Philip Martin/The Chart

Above: Dima (far right) who served as the interpreter for the week spends time with a group of children from the local school.

Left: The street leading up to the Baptist Church in Garadischae, Belarus is one of the busiest streets in the town. Down the street from the church is the local school.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Southwest Center holds conference

A Southwest Center consortium press conference relating to the proposed budget cuts in education is slated for 10 a.m. May 1 in Webb City.

Representatives from 47 school districts and colleges, along with a panel of six to eight school leaders, will be on hand to present explanations of how the projected cuts will affect schools in Southwest Missouri.

The purpose of the conference, which will be held in the Southwest Center building, located at 528 S. Ellis, will inform the public as to how public schools will react to the impending cuts.

SMSU holds show with global focus

Southwest Missouri State University fashion and design students used global inspirations for the "Jet-setting Fashion," set for 2 p.m. April 27 in the Oasis Convention Center, 2250 N. Glenstone Ave.

Tickets are $7 in advance or $10 at the door the day of the show. Tickets can be purchased by calling 417-836-5136. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. On-site parking will be available.

Profits from the fashion show will go to benefit student scholarship funds.

New Senate bill passes meth team

The Missouri Senate has given preliminary approval to Senate Bill 39 which creates MoSMART, Missouri Sheriff's Methamphetamine Relief Team, to aid in Missouri's battle with meth.

University status hits House floor

BY VIRGINIA FAIRCHILD
State News Editor

With less than a month left in the legislative session, local lawmakers are making the final push to see a Missouri Southern name change.

Senate Bill 55 to change the College's name to Missouri Southern State University-Joplin, sponsored by Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin) and Rep. Bryan Stevenson (R-Joplin) passed April 10 out of the House Education Committee in a 17 to 1 vote unamended. This means if the representatives pass the bill on the House floor in exactly the same form in which they received it, the bill will be sent directly to the governor's desk for him to sign into law.

Dr. Julio León
College President

Nodler said he predicts the name change bill will hit the House floor within the next couple of weeks.

"It has a real good chance to pass," he said. "If it would not get passed, I would reintroduce it (January 2004), but I expect it to pass."

Stevenson said when the bill makes it to the floor, "I have the votes to get it passed."

College President Julio León said he's confident the bill will pass this session.

"I feel very good about the position we're in right now," he said. "So, now it's just a question of when the House leadership will consider Senate bills for third reading.

"Among those we will be one of the first."

This version of the name change bill, which originated in the Senate, was amended to contain portions of SB 56, another of Nodler's bills.

In SB 56, cooperative agreements between institutions of higher education would be encouraged "for the purpose of offering graduate degree programs on campuses of those institutions of higher education which do not otherwise offer graduate degrees."

The bill also states that in the case of these cooperate graduate programs, the names of both institutions involved would be included on the graduate's diploma.

León said there has been no preliminary research done as to what degrees the College will offer if the bill is passed.

He said they are going to wait until it happens, "then we can begin to speculate and explore what possibilities are available through the bill."

If Southern becomes a university, the law also requires the College to discontinue all associate degree programs by July 1, 2008. Some two-year degrees may be allowed pending the approval of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The College's Board of Regents will be renamed as the Board of Governors. As the members' terms expire, they would be replaced under the new provisions that expand the area in which they can be selected.

As for immediate changes, students won't see many past signage, León said.

"For a while Missouri Southern will continue to be the same institution that it is, only that it will be called a university," he said.

"Immediately, there will be a new perception because the institution will be referred to as an university."

León said he has received "very positive support" from other universities including the University of Missouri.

"We're pretty confident our colleagues from other universities are not opposed," he said.

If Southern's name change bill is passed, León said he hopes Gov. Bob Holden will sign the bill at a formal ceremony at the College.

"Obviously we would hope that when he decides to sign it, he might want to come here and do it on campus," León said.

"We're just excited about the possibilities and we hope that it becomes a reality."

Chambers of commerce declare state of emergency

BY VIRGINIA FAIRCHILD
State News Editor

Missouri leads the nation for jobs lost in 2002.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and 40 local chambers from around Missouri held a press conference April 15 in Jefferson City to declare a state of emergency due to the 77,700 jobs lost in Missouri in 2002. These figures were released by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Missouri lost 20,000 more jobs than the next worst state, Ohio. Ohio has a population of 11.3 million people; Missouri's population is 5.5 million.

A news release April 15 by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry said Missouri's job loss equals $2.26 billion in lost wages and $126 million in lost tax revenues to the state. These figures were compiled by the Missouri Chamber from data collected from the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

"In the Joplin metropolitan area (Jasper and Newton counties), we saw a reduction of 2,500 jobs which is 3 percent down from 2001," said Rob O'Brian, president of the Joplin Chamber of Commerce.

He said there are a few things that stand out which caused a large part of the losses. King Press closed its doors and Sunbeam downsized production.

"It has had an impact, but on the other hand we have seen companies grow," O'Brian said. "A number of companies are adding people and continuing to expand at some level.

"Without that positive end of the equation, the job situation could have been worse in the area."

Patricia Hurley, director of career services, said the state's immense job loss has not affected her department. But, she said some of the annual fairs Career Services promotes have experienced a drop in participation. The education job fair had 20 schools fewer than the 2002 fair.

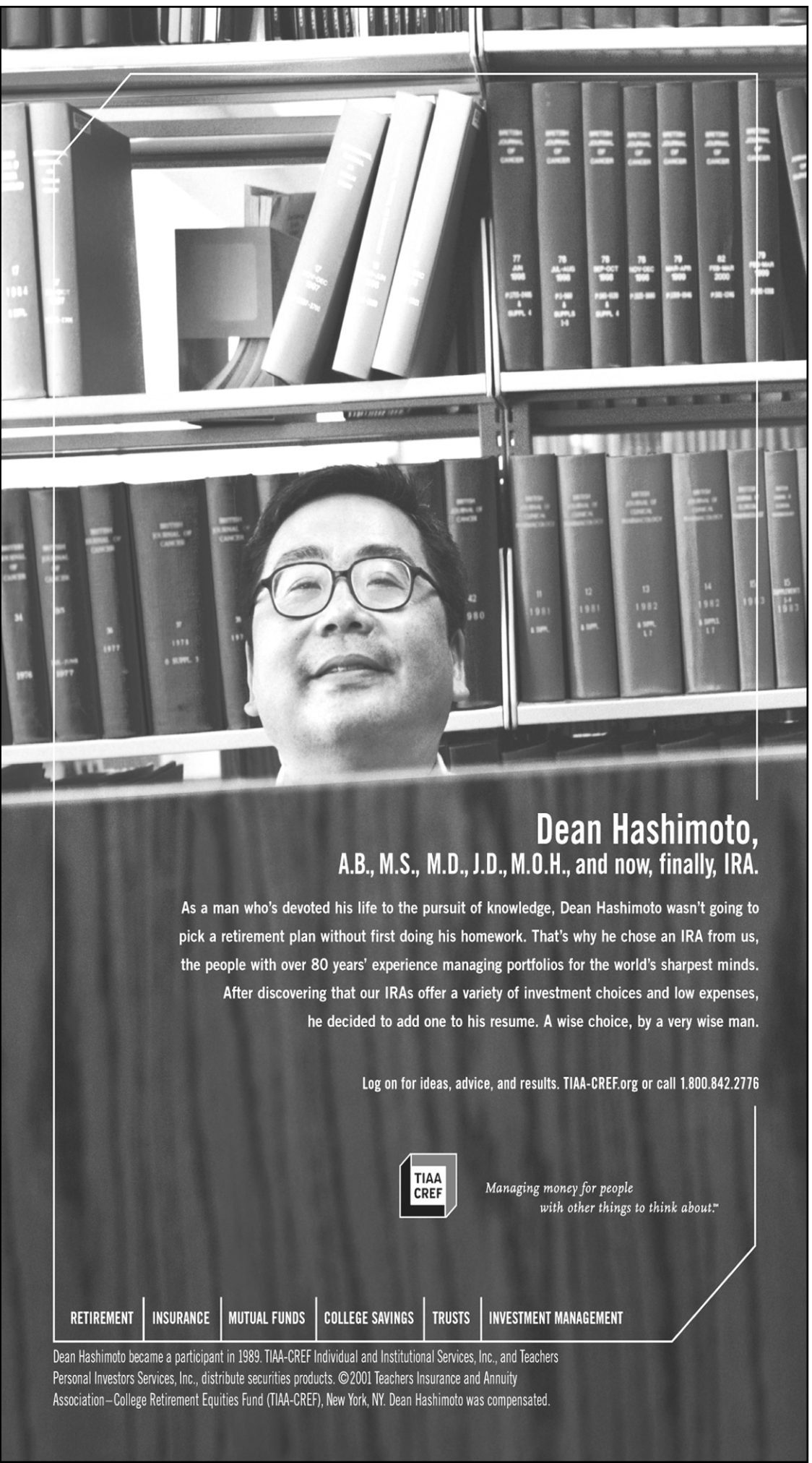
"We are working to make students aware that it's so important resumés are perfect and they need to practice their interview skills," Hurley said. "They need to go beyond the baseline and work above."

Besides providing the same services, career services is strengthening its outreach to

TURN TO **JOB LOSS**, PAGE 12

Missouri Chamber of Commerce

Statistics provided by the U.S. Department of Labor.


Dean Hashimoto,
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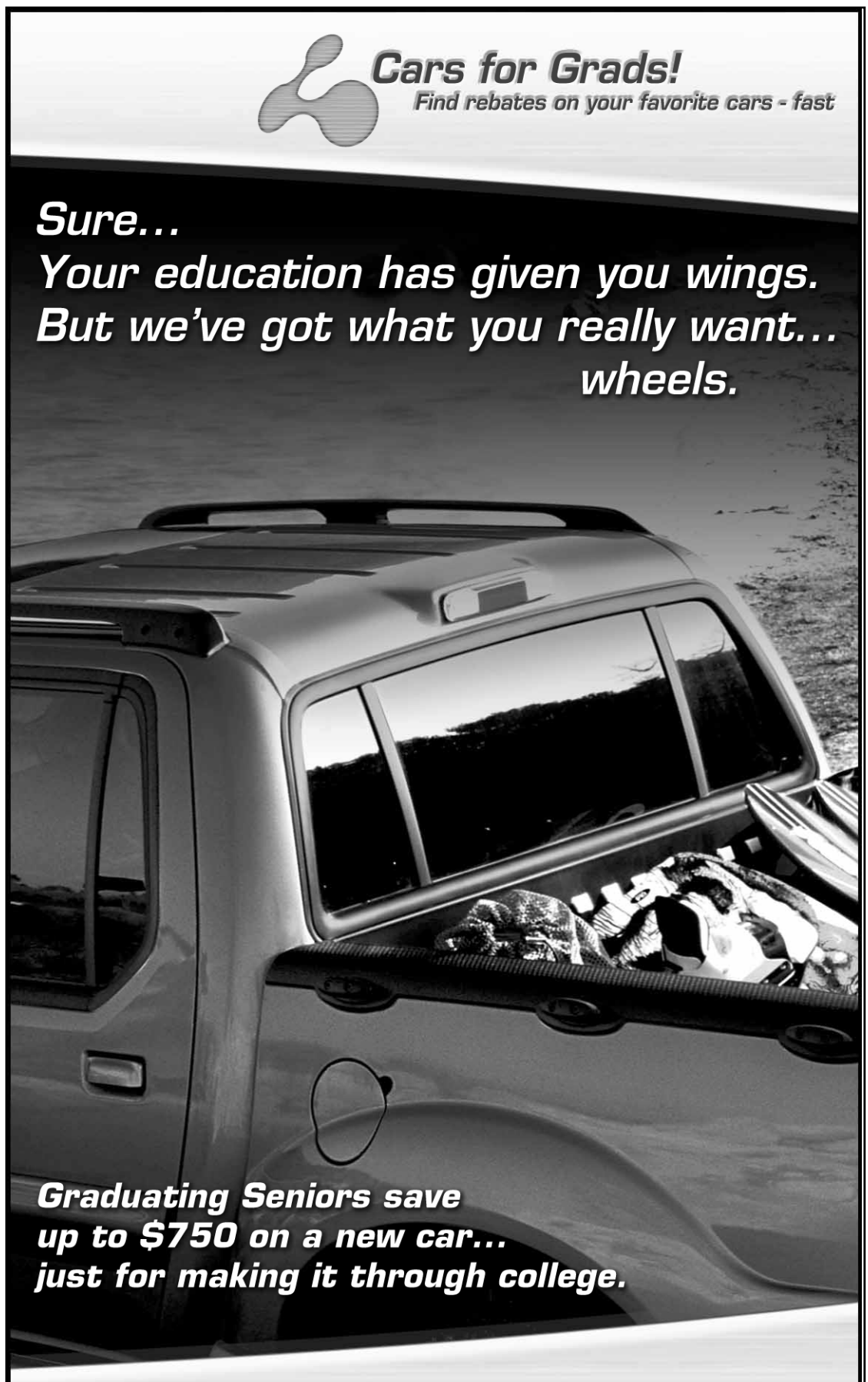
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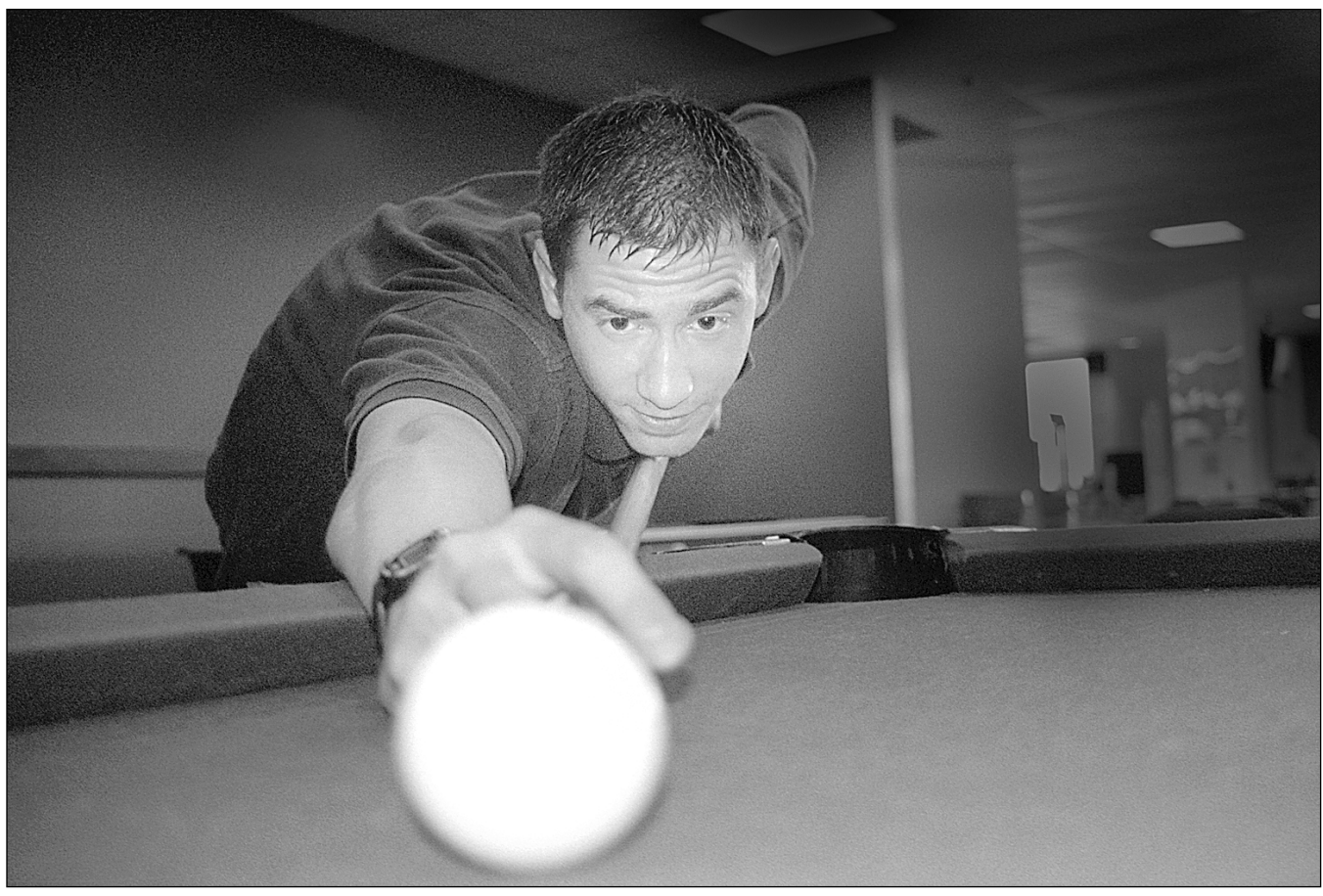
Student returns to hometown



Chad Hunter/The Chart

Kevin Gripka, sophomore criminal justice major, came back to his hometown of Joplin to attend Missouri Southern after spending time at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. He said the two colleges have many differences.

BY LIZ SCHEURICH
Chart Reporter

Kevin Gripka, 20, sophomore criminal justice major, has returned home from Rockhurst University in Kansas City.

Gripka has lived in the Joplin area all of his life.

"Although I get bored with Joplin, it's good to be back," Gripka said. "I like being able to go home at night."

He graduated from McAuley High School in Joplin, and went directly to RU to get out of the house for a change, he said.

He decided to come to Missouri Southern for its criminal justice program because he heard it was good.

"Southern is a lot cheaper too," he said.

RU tuition is around $7,990 for an undergraduate per semester and when compared to Southern, it's expensive, he said.

Gripka talked to his parents the summer before he made his decision, and they were happy with his choice to attend Southern.

"I don't think he enjoyed Rockhurst and he didn't make the friends that he has here," Carol Gripka said.

She thinks her son is happier here because he seems more comfortable.

Whether or not his classes would transfer did not affect Gripka's decision.

"I'm really not behind much in my core," he said. "My general biology class did not transfer."

His friends showed him around campus before classes started, so he would know where to go for his classes.

"He told me he liked it better here, than at Rockhurst, because it was more laid back," said Dakota Hosp, sophomore psychology major.

Hosp found out Gripka was coming to Southern after he had enrolled.

Gripka said class size is the same when comparing RU and Southern. Instructors give many ways to reach them; the biggest difference is school spirit and things to do.

"Southern doesn't have a college feel at all," he said. "On the weekends everyone goes home."

One thing that did give him a surprise on the first day was the parking.

"I didn't think it would be a big deal, but I was amazed at all the cars," Gripka said.

"The buildings at Rockhurst are all really close together. And here, I didn't realize how far spread apart my classes would be."

One thing he misses from RU is the restaurant and pub on campus.

"It had great food and you could use your student ID and the points would be deducted," Gripka said. "I feel a lot safer here; Southern has a lot less crime.

There was a shooting right outside of my dorm room window at Rockhurst."

Southern students rent their textbooks and this was a surprise for Gripka, because he was used to spending around $325 per semester.

He really doesn't think anything has changed, since he still goes out on the weekends with his friends.

"I had friends up there, but not like here," Gripka said.

He has already gotten involved with intramural basketball on campus. As of right now, he is not looking to get involved in any other activities.

"I don't feel inclined to be in a fraternity," Gripka said.

"If you were not in a fraternity at Rockhurst, people didn't know who you were, but that does not seem like the case here."

THEFT:

From Page 1

also covers those belongings.

He, too, thought it was a joke, but later realized otherwise.

"I was hacked off," he said. "I'm sorry for whomever took it. He'll get what's coming to him."

The bass was his only guitar of that kind.

"I miss it terribly," he said.

Terry said his equipment was not locked up because it would not fit in his locker.

"I don't have a locker big enough," he said. "It won't come close to fitting. But I know I won't leave my stuff down there anymore."

Miller, Terry and Wise all agree someone outside the music department must have stolen the instruments and equipment.

"Musicians usually don't steal other musicians' instruments," Wise said. "They're sort of sacred cows, if you will."

A set of drums was taken but was found at the top of the stairs in the art department. Miller thinks whomever was taking the instruments must have been using the elevator in that department, got scared by something or someone and left the drums. He thinks more than one person must have been involved in the thefts.

"It seems hard for one person to pull that off," Miller said.

The three suspect someone stole the instruments to pawn them for money. Reports about the thefts were filed with the Joplin Police Department, and the police are investigating.

"They're just keeping an eye open to see if they might be able to find out where these things could show up," Wise said.

In the meantime, Wise wants something to be done to prevent this from occurring again.

He sent a mass e-mail to all the music department faculty, asking them to always make sure all rooms and offices are locked when they leave.

In addition, he plans to one day buy new lockers for the music lounge.

"The lockers we have are quite old, and a number of those don't lock, and it would be easy to break into those," Wise said. "We're looking and hoping to replace those with something that might be a little more secure."

Miller said many students do not shut their lockers because they are so hard to re-open.

Wise wants better lockers, but said the money situation is a problem.

"Those things are very expensive to purchase, so it would be very, very difficult to purchase those without eating up a good portion of the department's budget," he said.

DIRECTOR:

From Page 1

Library where the last position she held was adult services librarian, responsible for circulation and reference.

"I was going to apply for the position whether or not there was an internal or external search [to fill the position], because I was interested in becoming the library director," she said.

McGrane has already been involved in major improvements and projects. She has been responsible for coordinating library migration to a new computer system. She also wrote a grant that brought in an expert consultant to come and look at different issues of the library's internal and external communications. This was to help improve its practices and services, which McGrane said has helped the library evolve. She also personally helped moved periodicals and books in preparation for the construction last year.

The library is in the process of reviewing bids for selecting a new subscription agent. In the future, McGrane wants to sit down with the other librarians and rewrite the mission statement and discuss new goals.

"She's very professional and very good with communication in the library," said Ann Quade, secretary of Spiva Library. "Everyone is very pleased."

"I haven't been here very long, and she made me feel very welcome," said Nancy Schiavone, reference and instruction librarian of Spiva. "She's done a good job making sure everyone is informed."

McGrane likes the variety and because it's a small organization, she gets to play very active roles.

She said there is always something to do that keeps her learning new things and keeps her involved.

DEPLOYED:

From Page 1

The war protesters don't bother Highland and Thrasher.

"I think their hearts are in the right place; we just have a different view as military people," Thrasher said.

"I'm glad there are protesters," Highland said. "That means Americans are voicing their opinions. If you're an American you have that right.

"I saw a thing on MTV, a true life 'I'm shipping out; a soldier said, 'To all those protesters out there, just remember who gave you the right to protest.'"

Highland said the general consensus is not wanting the troops to have a bad reception when they come home.

"I hope when the soldiers come back they are seen as heroes," Highland said.

"I hope it is not another Vietnam."

"I have gotten a lot of support from people I wouldn't expect," said Lance Cpl. Josey Long, a reservist for the Marines from Springfield.

Sgt. Nick Bettencourt, a Marine recruiter, said he hasn't noticed an above average number of people looking to enlist.

"There may be more people walking in the door (sometimes), but our quality standards are so high that our recruiting numbers haven't increased," he said.

Bettencourt has been in the military for eight years. He plans to re-enlist this summer.

"People enlist not only to defend our country but to better themselves," he said.

"I had no idea what I wanted to do when I enlisted," Thrasher said. "But I knew there would be a nice scholarship at the end, and I wanted to leave Milwaukee."

"It's hard knowing you will be leaving your family behind and how much you will worry about them while you're gone," Long said.

Long is married with an 8–month-old daughter.

"But that is why we signed up, to serve our country," he said.

"We know that if we have to fight for our country, we can do it with confidence," Bettencourt said.

"We are there to do a job, to liberate Iraq," Highland said. "I feel it is a noble cause. Support from the U.S. will be there for years to come to help rebuild the country and the government."

Thrasher is not bothered by some of the Iraqis protesting occupation in Iraq.

"It would be nice if they showed more courtesy, but we didn't do it for courtesy, we did it for their freedom," she said.

"I'm sure after the American Revolution we were rude to those who helped us, that is what you would expect. They want to get their own government together."

Highland said he has had a great deal of support from his family.

Questions?
Comments?

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The Chart

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East Hall experiences SA change

BY JESSICA MACINTOSH
Online Editor

With the spring semester almost complete, a change in East Hall happened.

Tully Lale, sophomore mass communications major, replaced Aaron Epperly, junior criminal justice major, as the staff assistant in East Hall.

"We (student housing) had a resignation," said Deb Gipson, coordinator of student housing.

Lale said he was planning on moving to East Hall next semester.

"I feel good that I got the chance," he said. "East is better than Blaine."

Around the beginning of April, Lale was asked by Adam Griffin, residence director of Blaine Hall, to move into East Hall and replace Epperly.

"I was interested and was quick to do it," Lale said.

Lale was chosen to replace Epperly, because he is a good staff member, Gipson said.

"Tully is a great SA," she said. "We filled the staff spot well."

To become an SA, one must have a grade-point average of 2.5, be a sophomore or above and have a good sense of honesty, Gipson said.

"We have a number of qualifications – reliability, responsibility and trainability," she said.

Lale, a resident of Kansas City, decided to become an SA because the job appealed to him.

"I enjoy a leadership [position]," he said. "It looks good on a resumé."

He said he likes being an SA.

"I like to earn respect," Lale said, "and I like meeting new people and friends."

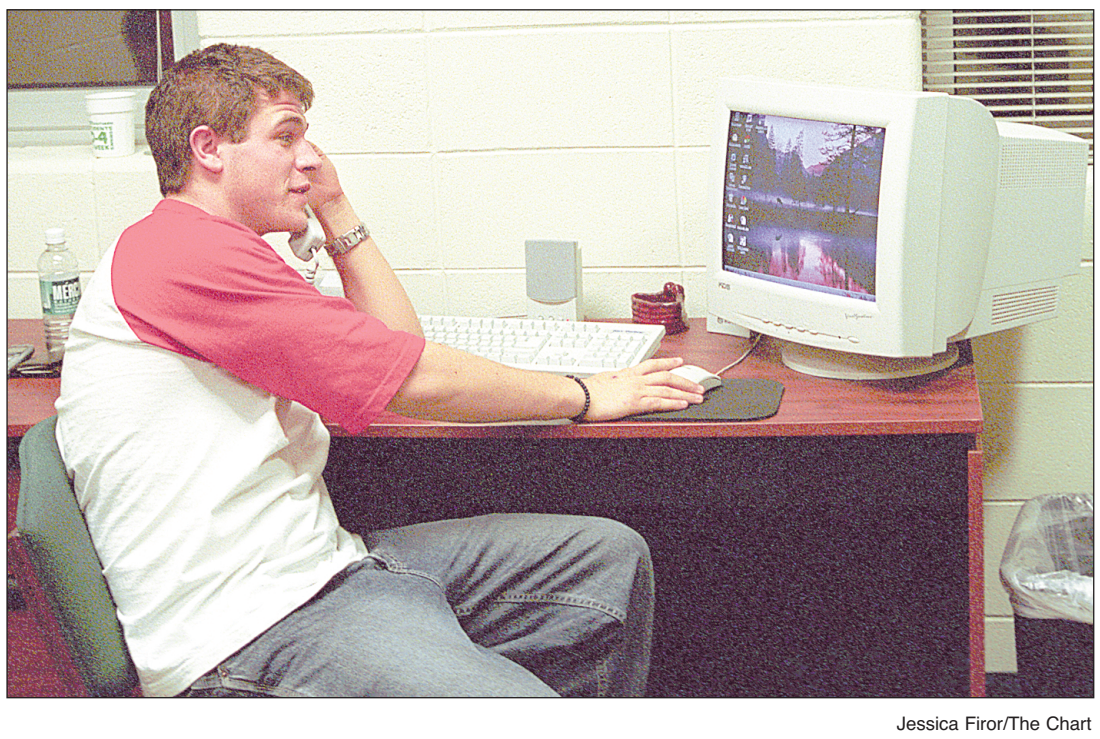
Although he enjoys taking on an SA position, he said there are a number of office skills an SA has to have.

"There are strict schedules," Lale said.

"You have to be organized about your schedule and time management."

Lale came to Missouri Southern for a number of reasons. He said it is two hours away, and it costs less.

He enjoys the College for the small-town atmosphere and the instructors.



Jessica Firor/The Chart

Tully Lale, sophomore mass communications major, recently replaced another staff assistant in East Hall who resigned. Lale worked in Blaine Hall before.

Lale said students complain there is not enough to do on campus, but he thinks that's only because they don't choose to become involved.

As an SA, Lale wants to continue to stay on task with the rules and not be too harsh.

He said he wants to be someone students can come to for help.

Lale has some advice for those who want to become an SA.

"Be yourself," he said. "Stay true to the rules and uphold the rules. You will earn respect in the end."

Besides being an SA on campus, Lale enjoys the outdoors and is a sports enthusiast.

SOUTHERN NEWS BRIEFS

'Capitol Dialogue' airs on KGCS-TV

Area viewers can find out about the issues remaining to be decided in the last month of session in the Missouri General Assembly on an upcoming program airing on KGCS-TV.

"Capitol Dialogue" airs at 6:30 p.m., Monday. It features a round-table discussion of senators and representatives discussing the financial challenges facing public education in the state.

Lawmakers explain the education funding formula and problems that have surfaced this year.

The program may be seen on KGCS-TV, UHF channel 57 and cable channel 7, in the Joplin-Webb City area.

The station is operated as a service of the department of communications at Missouri Southern.

Student chosen as ODK province leader

Monicca Shanthanelson, senior biology major, was recently selected as Omicron Delta Kappa's Province XIV Leader of the Year.

Shanthanelson served as president of the Missouri Southern ODK circle this year.

ODK has more than 280 circles and each circle is asked to select a Circle Leader of the Year. After the national headquarters receives all nominations, they are then separated into 16 provinces. The National Leader of the Year is then selected from the 16 Province Leaders of the Year.

Shanthanelson has participated in numerous campus volunteer opportunities. She is also a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Chi, the Dean's Honor List and was the 2001 recipient of the McCaleb Initiative for Peace grant. She volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Souls Harbor and the Salvation Army.

KLEINDL:

From Page 5

The purpose of the trip was educational, but Kleindl still fit in time for sightseeing.

"They told me I needed to see some of the country," he said.

He traveled 2,000 miles from Bloemfontein to Port Elizabeth and then on to Knysna and visited several tourist attractions including the Addo Elephant Park.

Despite Kleindl's other private travels around the world, he was surprised by the level of development in the wealthier African world and the level of poverty in the poorer black African world. Ten years out of apartheid, the mixture of the first and third world is similar to the racial turmoil the U.S. experienced during the '70s and '80s.

"The Fulbright is a very valuable experience for both parties," Kleindl said.

"Not only because I was able to take my expertise down there, but it does allow Americans to see other parts of the world and even though I've traveled over a lot of this world and seen a lot of places, what I saw in South Africa was somewhat unique in terms of the diversity or as far as the difference between the two different cultures that live side by side there. It will be interesting to watch over the next 20 years how those two different cultures reconcile there lives together."

JOB LOSS:

From Page 9

local employers, she said.

"We're making as many as contacts we can with employers," Hurley said. "We're reaching out to employers to connect with them so they'll want to connect with our students."

O'Brian said the Joplin Chamber is working with local lawmakers to create solutions to problems with worker's compensation and unemployment insurance. He said those are some of the biggest concerns brought to his attention by members of the Chamber.

"We're continuing efforts we've done for a long time in terms of marketing Joplin for new companies," O'Brian said. "But, frankly, that is a very small part."

O'Brian said the Chamber is spending time with local companies on how to maintain or expand their businesses. The Chamber assists local companies, providing them with information on who they should contact to fix their technical or financial problems.

> *"We're making as many contacts as we can with employers."*
>
> **Patricia Hurley**
> *Director of Career Services*

"Every time a Missourian loses his or her job, the state loses $1,600 in tax revenue," said Daniel P. Mehan, president and CEO of the Missouri Chamber in an April 15 Missouri Chamber news release. "These are cold hard facts policymakers need to embrace as they prioritize the issues that will be addressed yet this session.

"If they are truly concerned about finding a solution to Missouri's budget problems, stopping Missouri's epidemic job loss is the place to start."

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New surface on way for next season

BY PHILIP MARTIN
Sports Editor

The end is near for the old football and track surfaces at Hughes Stadium.

With the awarding of the final bid, the Lion Pride Restoration Project will start April 28 with both the Sprinturf company and Beynon Sports Surfaces resurfacing the grounds.

The bid for the track surface was awarded to Beynon for $371,100 which was the next to lowest bid. Sallie Beard, athletic director, said because BSS has a 10-year warranty, the committee thought it was a better deal for Missouri Southern.

"It (the warranty) more than made up for the difference between them and the next lowest bidder," Beard said.

The 10-year warranty includes repair or replacement of high stress areas one time at Southern's discretion. The repairs could be made after the 10-year warranty has ended. Beynon will also re-stripe the lanes and event markings at least once as part of the warranty.

"I hope people will realize that this is the beginning of the end," said Keith Adams, co-chairman of the Lion Pride Restoration Project. "And we will continue so we don't have to push the panic button next time."

Mary Garrett, senior psychology major, said she was expecting a state of the art facility during her time at Southern. Garrett said when she was recruited by Southern four years ago she was told the College would receive a new track surface. B.J. Blocker, sophomore secondary education major, said he was also told by the College that a new track surface would be installed when he was recruited.

"You always have that dream when you go to college that you'll see a great facility and it will be esthetically pleasing, also, and now we're going to have that," Garrett said. "It's going to give us that bigger college and university feel."

Chris Turner, junior pole vaulter, said the track and field team had to make do with the existing surfaces in Hughes Stadium.

Turner said the team placed a makeshift wood runway for the pole vaulters on the "condemned football field."

The track surface will be an eight lane, 13 mm, full-pour surface which meets NCAA regulations. It will be polyurethane throughout the structure. Beard said the College looked at a 10 mm surface and surface spray, but neither one of them would stand the test of time.

"It will be a more resilient surface, it will be more conducive to training," she said.

"It strikes a happy medium between speed and safety for the student athletes."

The track surface at Leggett & Platt is a Beynon product that was placed under a different company name.The company has similar surfaces at James Madison University, University of Tulsa and the University of North Carolina.

The Board of Regents in its meeting discussed placing a camera on top of the scoreboard for people to go to Southern's Web site and see how the project is coming along. The completion date for the project is estimated at 60-90 days after construction begins. With the start date scheduled for April 28, the project is expected to be finished by September for the start of the football season.

"The sooner we start this the better," said College President Julio León.

Beard said after the project is completed, everything in the stadium will be covered in either turf or in a new track surface. Tom Rutledge, head men's track and field coach, said the new surface could be used for MIAA meets or for meets outside the MIAA if the need arises.

Chris Turner (back) hands the relay off to Moses Manga during the University of Kansas meet.

Special to The Chart

One last sprint

Lions, Lady Lions track teams head into final leg of season

BY CLIFF ERWIN
Staff Writer

Weather was a big factor on the University of Kansas meet that some Lady Lions participated in.

"It's a nice meet, but the conditions weren't great and we didn't have a great meet," said head coach Patty Vavra.

Danee Jones participated in the throwing events, but had her best performance in the discus with a 148 feet toss. The throw places her at seventh in the nation as well as a provisional for the national championship.

Iashia Castle had her best run in the 400 meter of her career with a time of 58.60 placing her 23rd.

Mary Garrett was scheduled to run in the invitational 400-meter hurdles, but was pulled due to the fact that she has had some shin pains, and Vavra thought that the conditions were not good enough to race her.

Garrett is set to race on Saturday at the Drake relays in Des Moines, Iowa. Garrett is originally from Iowa, so it is sort of a homecoming meet. She is still tied for first in the nation in the 400 hurdles, even though she has not raced in the event for several weeks.

Rachel Patterson ran her first 10,000-meter run of the year and beat her old time by a minute and a half. She placed sixth with a time of 39.25.

This week the team is participating in the Bill Williams Invitational at Pitt State due to the fact that Southern's track and football field are under renovation.

"Going into this next meet, we'll be just looking to try and get that one last meet in, and hopefully some good marks before conference," Vavra said.

Vavra hopes to get some good marks from some of her athletes to try and qualify for nationals before conference.

For others, it's a good chance to rest their arms and legs.

BY CLIFF ERWIN
Staff Writer

Weather conditions are always a factor in outdoor track meets, especially when it is taking place in Kansas.

The Lions track and field team traveled to the University of Kansas relays last week to take part in one of the most elite meets of the year.

B.J. Blocker went up to the meet on March 16 and 17 to participate in his first ever decathlon. His goal was to score 6,000 points, but received 5,700 points. He finished seventh overall out of 16 entries.

Head Coach Tom Rutledge thought Blocker had a good performance for the weather conditions, competition and the fact that it was the first decathlon that he ever participated in.

"He had a good attitude toward it," Rutledge said. "He competed hard, and he competed well. I was very pleased."

More athletes showed up on the 17th to compete. Petri Kykyri, Paul Koehler and Craig Rhoades all participated in the 10,000-meter run. They placed third, fourth and sixth respectively. Kykyri didn't improve on his time from the first time racing the 10k earlier this season at Pitt State. Koehler and Rhoades, on the other hand, both achieved personal records.

Arley Smith and Jamie Tallman participated in the hammer throw, Tallman threw for 163-10.

Smith threw a school record and personal best 184-4, which places him in the top 10 in the nation.

"To have two good hammer throwers like Jamie, and Arley is very good," Rutledge said.

This week the team will travel to Pitt State to participate in what is usually Southern's Bill Williams Invitational. Southern is unable to host the meet due to the repairs on the track and football field.

Golf squad wants to end season with low scores in tournament

BY KRISTEN SMITH
Assistant Sports Editor

With their season quickly coming to its end, the men of Lions golf are working hard to focus and finish out the season strong.

The Lions are also struggling to balance a hectic golf schedule on top of school.

"I think that people don't realize that college golf is one of the hardest sports in the country for players to maintain their GPAs because of the travel schedule," said Andy Koehler, sophomore biology major.

Weather permitting, the golfers practice every day and play a full round of 18 holes. Koehler said many of the players take Internet, night and televised courses in order to balance school with the golf season.

On April 21 and 22, five of the 11 Lions competed in the Washburn Invitational in Topeka, Kan. Teams competing included Washburn University, Missouri Western State College, Southwest Baptist University, Central Missouri State University, Truman State University, Pittsburg State University and University of Missouri-Rolla.

Placing third behind Washburn University and Missouri Western wasn't where the team had hoped to end up.

"We were not very happy with the way we played," said freshman accounting major Nick Marks.

Marks placed 39th out of 43 golfers and said he was let down with his outcome.

Senior Mickey Carpenter led the team placing fourth. Carpenter tied in fourth place with Brian Doolan of CMSU and Paul Resner of WU.

Senior Kyle Long placed 11th with 154 strokes, tying with sophomore Andy Koehler. Sophomore Danny Sinksen placed 24th and said he was not happy with the way he played.

The Lions are now practicing for the MIAA Tournament at Alvamar Golf Course in Lawrence, Kan.

All the teams in their division will be in Lawrence to compete.

"We have enough talent to win every tournament," said sophomore Danny Sinksen. "We just need to play like we know we can."

Koehler said the tournaments operate on a point system in which the team finishing first receives eight points, giving the second place team seventh points and so on. The Lions are currently down four and a half points and need to place first in the conference. The point system changes in the conference as the points are doubled. The team in first place will receive 16 points. Koehler said the team needs to place first ahead of WU.

Each week the Lions compete against each other in hopes of qualifying in the top five to play in the tournament.

"If we play to our ability, I think we can win it," Marks said.

With regional just around the corner the Lions are anxious to compete in the tournament that could lead them to nationals.

"If we win regional we would get a trip to nationals and that would be amazing," Sinksen said.

He said this is the year for Southern to win because the team has two seniors who lead very well."

"I think that we all want it and hopefully we will go out and play our best," Sinksen said.

It's time to honor Gross

All right, this may be old news but it has been bothering me for a long time.

I finally decided to take the time and voice my opinion on the matter of the naming of the streets on campus. Of course, you're probably thinking; "What is he doing talking about that in a sports column?"

The answer is simple — a street was named after former faculty member Julie Hughes. The late Don Gross, who should have a street named after him, was passed up during the naming process. One thing I don't understand is how Student Senate said no street would be named after a person, but then turn around and name it after Hughes. Now I have nothing against Hughes, and I know College President Julio León asked for the street to be named after her, but Senate should have stuck to its guns and said no, because they were told not to name a street after a person.

Philip Martin
Sports Editor

Again I would like to say I have nothing against Hughes or the decision to name one of the streets after her, but someone should have piped up and voted to name a street after Gross if they were to name a street after someone else.

I suggest we rename Victory Lane to Don Gross Lane. Look at all he has done for the community and Missouri Southern. Gross is most remembered as the voice of the Lions. He voiced many memorable games, including the 1972 NAIA National Football Championship, which Southern won.

He wasn't just the voice of the Lions; he could be heard broadcasting for the Joplin Eagles, Parkwood Bears and Memorial Eagles. He was even the voice of the Lions when Southern was still Joplin Junior College.

Let us look at some more reasons to bestow this honor. In 1969, he was nominated for Missouri Sportscaster of the Year, the same year he broadcasted for the University of Missouri football and basketball teams. In 1992, he was named to the Missouri Southern Sports Hall of Fame and was a member of the inaugural class of the Joplin Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

Gross even received a key to the city from the Joplin City Council Aug.19, 1996. He received the Missouri Southern Pioneers of Broadcasting Award in 1999.

After all of this, why not name a street after him?

Do not rename the street for me or for anyone else on campus. Don't do it because I said to, or because of this column or because someone else said to. Do it because you know it is right in your heart. Most importantly, do it for Don.

LION STATS

Women's Tennis

April 19 Results against Emporia State University

MSSC (5)

Women's Singles

Sheryl Posch, MSSC d. Darcy Wells, ESU, 6-0,6-0.

Lacey McMunn, MSSC, d. Andrea Irick, ESU, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Kim McMunn, MSSC, d. Annie Boothe, ESU, 6-3, 6-0.

Kelley Metro ESU, d. Amy Stredney, MSSC, 7-6, 6-4.

Tara McCarthy, ESU, d. Halee Phillips, MSSC, 6-1, 6-1.

Pam Trear, ESU, d. Christine Broylee, MSSC, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles

Posch/L. McMunn, MSSC, d. Irick/Booth, ESU, 8-1.

K. McMunn/Stredney, MSSC, d. Wells/Metro, ESU, 8-6.

Trear/ McCarthy, ESU, d. Phillips/ Broyles, MSSC, 8-0.

Baseball

April 19 Results — Game 2

MSSC 1 (26-18, 14-10)

Player	ab	r	h	bi
Catanzaro cf	3	0	0	0
Bronson lf	2	0	0	0
Hughes rf	3	0	0	0
Keister 3b	3	0	0	0
Hergenrother dh	3	1	1	1
Nonemaker 1b	2	0	0	0
Techlin ss	1	0	0	0
Lallemand ss	1	0	0	0
Carver c	1	0	0	0
Sharp dh	1	0	0	0
Ritchie c	0	0	0	0
McMullen 2b	2	0	0	0
Johnson p	0	0	0	0
Baily p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**22**	**1**	**1**	**1**

Central Missouri 4 (36-5, 22-0)

Player	ab	r	h	bi
Guidry cf	5	0	1	0
Barry 2b	5	1	1	0
Norman 3b	3	1	0	0
Strada 1b	4	1	1	1
Downey rf	4	1	2	1
Murphey 1f	5	1	2	2
Bryant c	4	1	2	0
Whitney dh	0	0	0	0
Mayfield ss	1	0	1	0
Powers p	0	0	0	0
Total	**24**	**4**	**5**	**4**

MSSC	**0**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**6**	**11**	**2**
SBU	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**8**	**10**	**1**

E — Carver, D (10). LOB — CMSU 4; MSSC 1. 2B — Guidry, D (11); Strads, J (18); Murphy, S (13). HR— Hergenrother (2). SB — Mayfield, A (3). SF — Guidry, D (1); Bryant,T (1). SB— Downey, S (11).

Softball

April 22 Results — Game 2

MSSC 2 (19-22)

Player	ab	r	h	bi
Woolard ss	4	0	1	0
Roe 2b	4	0	0	0
Reed rf	3	0	1	0
Allison p	4	0	2	0
Barrow c	3	0	2	0
Givens pr	0	0	0	0
Thirion lf	3	0	0	0
Long 3b	2	1	0	0
Weston cf	3	1	1	0
Armilio 1b	3	0	2	2
Hodson pr	0	0	0	0
Totals	**29**	**2**	**9**	**2**

Pittsburg State 4 (23-26)

Player	ab	r	h	bi
Hull c	4	1	1	2
Ketcham lf	3	0	1	0
Miller 2b	4	0	2	1
Martines dh/p	4	0	1	0
Overman, L ss	3	1	2	1
Overman, M 1b	3	1	1	0
O'Brien rf	3	0	1	0
Loncarioh pr	0	0	0	0
Crosswhite 3b	1	1	0	0
Bugni cf	3	0	1	0
Bott p	0	0	0	0
Brown p	0	0	0	0
Total	**28**	**4**	**10**	**3**

MSSC	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**
SBU	**1**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**7**	**2**

E — Crosswhite (15); Roe (5). LOB — Gorillas 8; MSSC 8. 2B —Miller (8); Overman, M (7); Allison (12); Barrow (8). 3B — Billinton (1). HR — Huske (4). SH — Crosswhite (2). SB —Hull (12). HBP — Overman, M.; Overman, L.; Long.

Golf

April 22 Results

MSSC (3/8)	309	310	619
Player	**1**	**2**	**Tot**
Carpenter	78	78	151
Long	77	77	154
Koehler	75	79	154
Sinksen	79	81	160
Marks 80	86	166	

Southern Schedule

Saturday

Lions and Lady Lions track at MIAA Heptathlon/ Decathlon Championships in Maryville.

Monday

Lions Golf team in Lawrence, Kan. for MIAA Conference.

Lions and Lady Lions track at MIAA Heptathlon/ Decathlon Championships in Maryville.

Tuesday

3 p.m. - Softball game against Missouri Western in St. Joseph.

6:30 p.m. - Baseball game against University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Lions Golf in Lawrence, Kan., for MIAA Conference.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Sophomore Mary Barrow, center, is congratulated by her teammates after hitting a home run during the second inning of the April 22 game against Pittsburg State.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Junior Roxanne Thirion slides into second base during the April 22 game.

Lady Lions split doubleheader

Team places eighth in conference, looks to final home game

BY DAVID HAUT
Staff Writer

Shouts of joy and defeat filled the stands April 22, as the Lady Lions split a doubleheader with longtime rival Pittsburg State.

The first game ended in the bottom of the seventh, with the score tied at one. Lindsey Long, junior third baseman, reached first on an error.

Long stole second, with two outs, junior Kami Weston lined up the middle and drove in Long, who scored on a close play at the plate to give Missouri Southern the win.

"I just didn't want to strike out," Weston said of her game-winning RBI. "I just stood on the change-up and hit it back up the middle."

Callie Stanford, freshman pitcher, won her ninth game of the season. She allowed only one run, one walk and struck out eight.

Southern led game one in the bottom of the second following a solo home-run by Mary Barrow, sophomore catcher.

"I was really excited," Barrow said. "It's my first one in a really long time, since I was 12."

Southern fell in game two. After a four-run second inning by the Lady Gorillas, the Lady Lions answered back with two runs in the bottom of the inning.

The remainder of the game was a stalemate for both teams, neither scoring for the remainder of the game. The Lady Lions left several runners stranded on base.

Southern left runners on base in the first six innings, leaving eight on base for the game.

Jana Allison, senior pitcher, picked up her ninth loss of the season, despite seven strikeouts. She gave up 10 hits and allowed four runs.

The split placed Southern at 19-22 for the season and 6-8 in the MIAA, placing it eighth in the conference.

The MIAA tournament begins May 2.

Game times will be announced at a later date.

Southern will wrap up its home games at 3 p.m. April 24 against Emporia State and at 2 p.m. May 2 against St. Gregory's.

Tennis team serves up fifth at championships

BY PHILIP MARTIN
Sports Editor

Going into the championship tournament the Lady Lions tennis team was ranked third in the conference, and came out of the week placing fifth.

The team was defeated by Southwest Baptist University, 5-3. The Lady Lions played the Lady Bearcats two times before and defeated them 6-3 and 6-2 the team was disappointed with the loss. Head coach Jane Posch said it is hard to defeat a team three times in one season.

"We wish we could have played better for the first game," said Lacey McMunn.

The victors for the singles games were Amy Stredney (6-1, 6-1) and Christina Broyles, who won by default. The number two singles game was not completed. Defeated on the singles side were Sheryl Posch (6-3, 6-1), Kim McMunn (6-4, 2-6, 6-2) and Halee Phillips (6-2, 1-6, 6-3).

Victors on the doubles side were Phillips and Broyles. The defeated were Sheryl Posch and Lacey McMunn (8-5) and Kim McMunn and Stredney (9-7).

The Lady Lions did come back and win the fifth place match against Emporia State University (5-4).

Jane Posch said the team beat ESU because it defeated them once before in the season (5-4).

"We ended on a win which is good," Lacey McMunn said. "We could have played better, but that's how things go."

Sheryl Posch (6-0, 6-0), Lacey McMunn (3-6, 6-2, 6-2) and Kim McMunn (6-3, 6-0) won in singles play.

Stredney (7-6, 6-4), Phillips (6-1, 6-1) and Broyles (6-0, 6-0) were defeated. Winning on the doubles side were Sheryl Posch and Lacey McMunn (8-1) and Kim McMunn and Stredney (8-6).

Phillips and Broyles were defeated 8-0.

Looking back on the season, Jane Posch said she was pleased with the way the season turned out.

"Tying for third in conference was fantastic; we had a really great year," Jane Posch said. "We have a fun group of kids; it's a joy to work with all of them."

The team is hopeful for the fall season which begins in September. Lacey McMunn said she was encouraged by the way the team played this season.

She expects with new players coming the team will improve on the spring season.

Team strikes out at home

BY KEITH ROBERTSON
Staff Writer

The last home games of the season for Missouri Southern came against conference-leader Central Missouri State University on April 22.

But the Lions were not quite able to rise to the occasion, losing both games which brought their record to 26-18 (14-10 MIAA).

Game one of the doubleheader turned out to be another tense affair for the Lions who are used to tight games this season. Junior Nathan Hughes pitched for the Lions and had a 1-0 lead given to him in the third inning when junior second baseman Jake Lawver pulled a home run down the left field line.

Hughes held the the Mules scoreless until the fifth inning when he allowed three earned runs after he experienced some control problems.

Sophomore Evan Bates relieved Hughes in the sixth and pitched two scoreless innings of relief, which allowed the Lions to stay within striking distance of the Mules.

With the score 3-1 in the bottom of the seventh, senior Mark Keister drove in two runs on a bases-loaded single with two outs to tie the game and send it to extra innings.

After committing an error in right field in the top of the eighth inning to allow the go-ahead run to score, junior Zack Bronson was able to redeem himself and keep the game going with a two-out single to left field, tying the game at four in the bottom of the inning.

But the tie was short lived.

The Mules scored two in the top of the ninth and held the Lions scoreless in the bottom half of the inning for the win.

Lions starting pitcher Nick Johnson had the opportunity to pitch the last home game of his career against the top team in the conference in the nightcap, and even though he came out on the losing end, he was not upset with the outcome.

"That is definitely one I'm going to remember," Johnson said. "I was happy with my performance, but I didn't get run support. That's just the way it goes sometimes."

Although the Lions took two losses against a team they really wanted to beat, they are not letting it get to them.

"If they get down on themselves because of those losses, they need to be doing something else," Turner said. "There better not be anybody down, because there are a lot more games to play, and we have to be ready for them."

On April 18, Southern split a doubleheader with Washburn, 9-1 and 8-6.

On April 19, the Lions won the third game of the series 8-6.

The Lions are now down to their last two conference series.

One series with Emporia State on Friday and Saturday and one with Truman State on May 3-4 is all that remains of Southern's conference schedule.

The Lions are currently in third place and have their sights set on the conference tournament.

"We need to maintain our focus and keep playing solid ball," Hughes said. "The conference is a lot tougher this year because a couple of teams have improved, so we've got to keep playing well and take at least two out of three in our last two conference series."